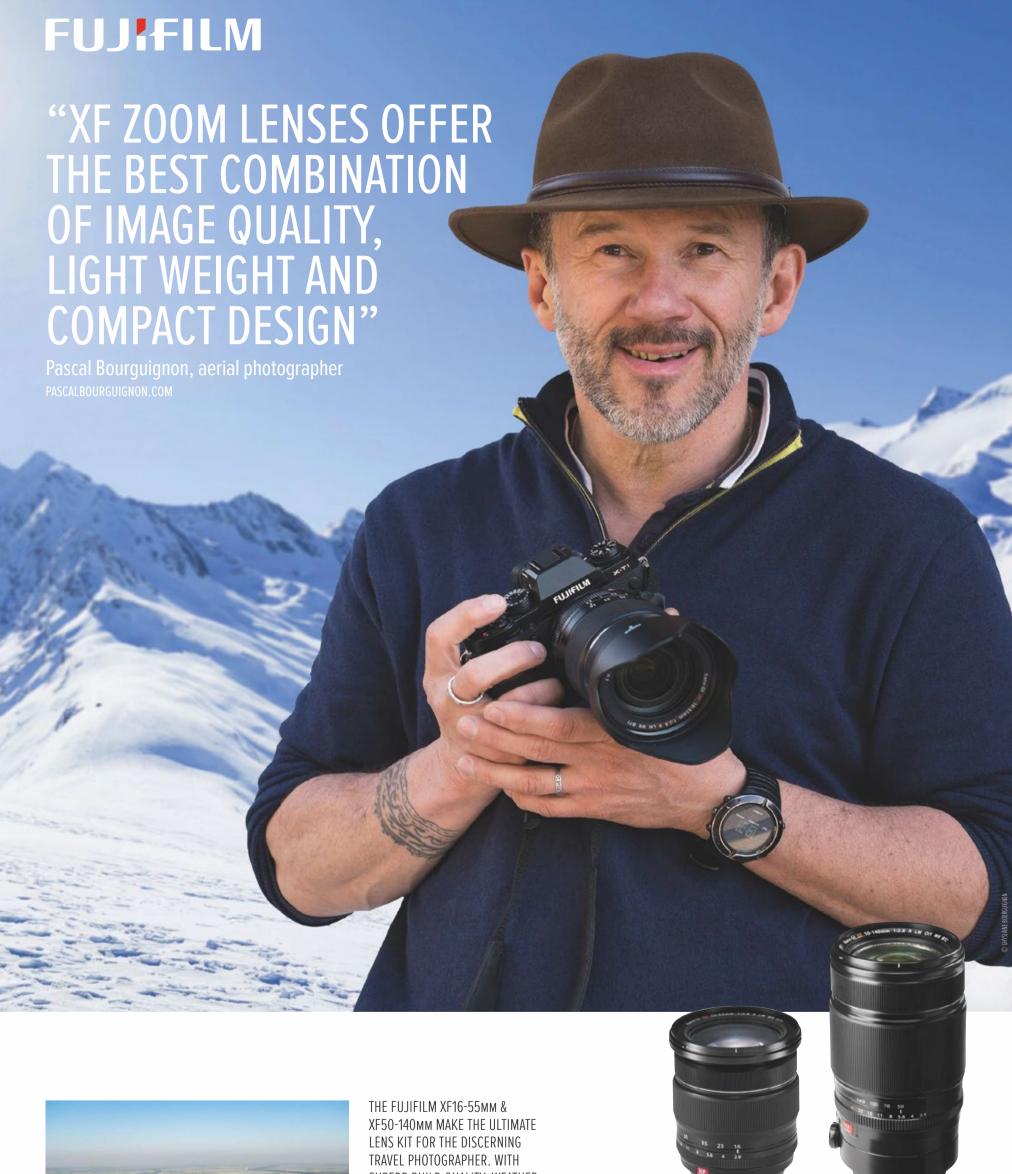


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A week in photograph



Summer is a strange time for photographers. It's the season when most of us have the greatest amount of time off to pursue our hobby, and yet

various factors conspire to make it difficult to come away with many great shots. For those of us with school-age children or grandchildren, summer is also family time, which often means going to places that may not be our first choice for photography. Second, summer light is harsh and unflattering for most subjects, unless we shoot at either end of the day, but this entails getting up very early or staying up quite late.

Fortunately, despite these hurdles, it is possible to get great pictures during the summer – whatever your preferred genre. This week our features and technique editor Phil Hall has compiled 14 pages of tips, advice and shooting suggestions, covering a wide range of subject matter, to give you some ideas (see pages 10-25). Nigel Atherton, Editor

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ONLINE PICTURE OF THE WEEK

We're Cookin'!

by Tommyt

Pentax K-30, 17-50mm, 0.5sec at f/3.5, ISO 100

This image comes from our monthly forum competition. and was submitted by forum regular Tommyt. He was responding to a brief that asked our entrants to select an object and render it unfamiliar. Tommyt's image of two bowls shows how far you can go with a couple of colourful items, some ingenuity and a bit of homemade lighting. It's such a great formalist image: the colours are striking, the shape is graphic and it's also perfectly lit.





Each week we choose our favourite picture on Facebook, Flickr or the reader gallery using #appicoftheweek. PermaJet proudly supports the online picture of the week winner, who will receive a top-quality print of their image on the finest PermaJet paper. It is important to bring images to life outside the digital sphere, so we encourage everyone to get printing today! Visit **www.permajet.com** to learn more.

Send us your pictures If you'd like to see your work published in *Amateur Photographer*, here's how to send us your images:

Email Email a selection of low-res images (up to 5MB of attachments in total) to **appicturedesk@timeinc.com**. CD/DVD Send us a disc of high-resolution JPEG, TIFF or PSD images (at least 2480 pixels along its longest length), with a contact sheet, to the address on page 30.

Via our online communities Post your pictures into our Flickr group, Facebook page or the gallery on our website. See details above. Transparencies/prints Well-packaged prints or slides (without glass mounts) should be sent by Special Delivery, with a return SAE, to the address on page 30.



NEWS ROUND-UP

The week in brief, edited by Chris Cheesman

Panasonic duo

Panasonic is to launch a Leica DG 100-400mm f/4-6.3 and a Lumix G 25mm f/1.7 lens at dates and prices that are to be confirmed. All we know is that the lenses will be optimised for the latest technology in Lumix G cameras and will be light enough to be used handheld.





Mexico hotshot

Mexico-based photographer Gabriela Torres Ruiz has won the annual Exposure Award Photography Competition with a series of diptychs on a theme of 'silence and meditation' (see left). The competition also saw UK portrait photographer Briony Teasel named winner of the Early Entry Award. To view this year's best entries visit www.see.me/exposureaward.



Armed and ready

Manfrotto has launched four new friction arms, which allow the attachment of extra cameras and photographic accessories to tripods. The new Manfrotto friction arms come in two sizes, 15cm and 24cm, and two models include antirotation attachments to help keep equipment stable. Prices start from £64.95. Visit www.manfrotto.co.uk.





Double bill

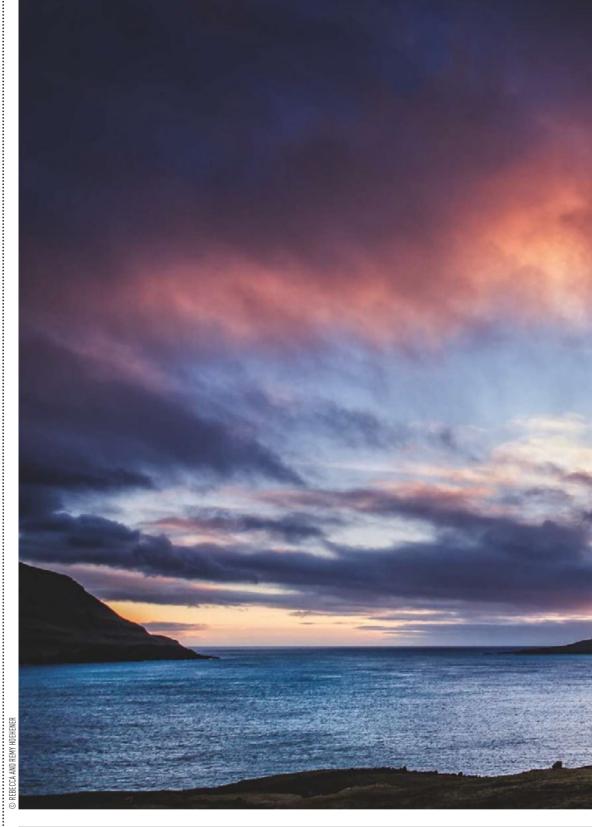
Take advantage of cinema screenings featuring Don McCullin and Sebastião Salgado on 3 and 4 August. On both days London's Regent Street Cinema will screen documentaries,

McCullin (see picture above) and *The Salt of The Earth*, based on the renowned photographers' work. Tickets include both films, and cost £15. Visit www.regentstreetcinema.com/programme/mccullin.



Capture the 'magic of learning and education' for inclusion in a photo library and the chance to have your work assessed by Rankin (pictured). Run by Talenthouse, a community of artists, and Pearson, an education and learning services company, the winner will also receive a 'cash bursary'. Visit http://ow.ly/P1z3Q.





WEEKEND PROJECT

Shoot borage

With poppies and lavender a firm favourite with photographers at this time of year, it's easy to forget about borage. A beautiful flowering herb, borage blooms from June to August, and while it's native to the Mediterranean it is hardy enough to grow in the UK. With its vivid blue flowers, borage is a popular choice with gardeners, and the cucumber-flavoured leaves can be used in summer drinks or the flowers used as decoration. Borage is also grown on a commercial scale, cultivated for borage seed oil, so it's possible to find large fields full of vibrant blue.

While the flowers are plentiful, they are also quite small, making them a bit of a challenge to shoot. However, you can make the most of each situation by searching for any possible focal points.

One option is to shoot from a low level with a telephoto lens. This will effectively compress the swathes of flower heads to make them appear more densely packed and therefore stronger in colour.

If you want a wideangle view that encompasses the surrounding landscape, be sure to move in very close on the nearest flowers (using f/22 for sufficient depth of field), so they'll loom large in the foreground.





BCCure

An incredible array of images featured in this year's APOTY

Regardless of how many astronomy pictures you see, each and every one is capable of offering something absolutely overwhelming. In next week's issue we'll take a look at some of the most impressive images from this year's Astronomy Photographer of the Year competition, but one worth pointing out here is this picture from Rebecca and Remy Hoehener showing a sequence of the total solar eclipse on 20 March 2015. The image is a composite intended to visualise how the eclipse progressed over two hours and was taken as part of a two-hour photo session in the Faroe Islands – one of only two populated locations to experience it totally. This was Remy and his daughter Rebecca's first attempt at shooting a solar eclipse, and to do so they'd prepared for over a year.

Words & numbers

You don't take a photograph, you make it

Ansel Adams
American photographer
(1902-1984)



Unlike lavender, borage isn't planted in tight lines, so building some linear perspective into the image is difficult. Consider including hedgerows or stone walls as lead-in lines to help convey a feeling of depth.

Borage is quite a bushy plant, which means that the 'tram lines' (the twin tracks commonly seen in crop fields, which are handy for adding structure to compositions) become overgrown and indistinct.









Nikon Photo Contest winner named

JAPANESE photographer Katsuhiro Noguchi has won the 2014–2015 Nikon Photo Contest.

His photos of flowers taken in Fukushima beat nearly 90,000 entries from 21,000 amateur and professional photographers worldwide, and won a prize worth 1.5 million yen (around £8,000).

Around 150,000 people were reportedly evacuated after the nuclear incident at Fukushima following the earthquake and tsunami on 11 March 2011.

Katsuhiro, who uses a Canon EOS-1Ds Mark II, and began taking photos of Fukushima's flowers four years ago, said: 'Whenever I'm behind the lens, two hopes occupy my mind: to brighten the city and to encourage the people with flowers.

'The Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent nuclear accidents significantly impacted our quiet life, and as a resident of Fukushima, my future was shrouded in uncertainty.

'And yet, even in that situation, the plants in the fields sprouted the same as ever, carrying our hopes with them.'

Sophie Stafford, one of the competition judges, said: 'In this winning image, a powerful and moving story is expressed through an artist's eye. The flowers are a vibrant and captivating promise of better things to come.

'Despite their fragility they have conquered tragedy. As a photo, it is technically excellent. As a testimony to hope, it is unparalleled.' The Nikon Photo Contest awards



Katsuhiro Noguchi's flower images 'conquer tragedy' of the nuclear disaster

ceremony took place in Shanghai, China, on 14 July.

Katsuhiro added: 'Even in that chaotic spring, where the earth was damaged, the scene of those buds sprouting as always, without losing their way, filled me with a sense of deep compassion and serene strength I cannot describe in words.

'Since then, photographing and presenting the "Flowers of Fukushima" has become my lifework. 'In the beginning, I immersed myself in taking pictures of flowers to avoid the harsh reality left by the earthquake. However, at some point I began to feel peaceful when photographing flowers.

'Gradually, I developed bonds with my neighbours, who offered me flowers, and now I am experiencing a true wonder, an everyday joy that comes to everyone who centres their life around flowers.'

The first Nikon Photo Contest was held in 1969.



Nikon issues shutter warning

NIKON has warned D750 users that the shutter may not work properly. In some cameras, made in October and November 2014, the fault can result in 'shading of a portion of images'.

Nikon has urged customers to check their camera's seven-digit serial number to see if it is one of the affected models, and has pledged to repair the shutter free of charge.

A spokesperson for Nikon UK said: 'We're very sorry for any inconvenience that this might cause.

'While the number of cameras affected is small, we are taking proactive action to minimise any potential future issues.'

Nikon UK declined to say how many of the faulty cameras have reached Europe or the UK.

To find out if your camera has one of the serial numbers affected, visit http://advisory. nikonrepair.eu/Language_Select_D750_2.aspx.



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Panasonic reveals 'super-zoom' camera

PANASONIC has unveiled a 4K-equipped super-zoom compact camera, the Lumix DMC-FZ330, priced at £499.99.

Billed as an 'all-round bridge camera', the 12-million-pixel DMC-FZ330 (due out in September) sports a Leica DC Vario-Elmarit 25-600mm f/2.8 lens.

Users should be able to extract an 8MP still image from 4K movie footage using the camera's 4K pre-burst, 4K burst and 4K burst start & stop modes.

'This means you can select the perfect image from even the most fleeting moments, such as a bird taking flight or a fish jumping from the water,' claims Panasonic.



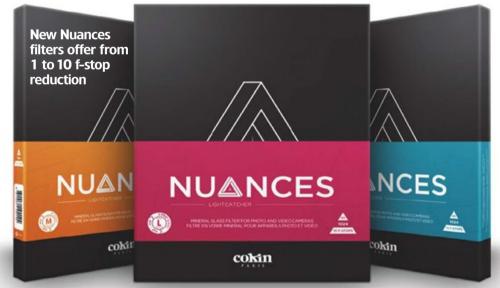
Built to be dustproof and splashproof, other features include Panasonic's 5-axis hybrid OIS system and Depth from Defocus technology.

The FZ330 houses a 1.44-million-dot OLED EVF and a 3in

(1.04-million-dot) freeangle touchscreen, plus 12fps shooting, ISO 100-6,400 and raw shooting.

Photographers can shoot as close as up to 1cm in macro mode, says Panasonic.

Cokin unveils Nuances ND filters



COKIN has launched a Nuances range of glass filters for enthusiast and professional photographers.

The mineral-glass ND filters feature a new coating process, whereby a nano metallic alloy is applied on both sides of a highly resistant tempered Schott glass (B270), which is claimed to produce stunning neutrality and images completely free of infrared pollution.

The Cokin Nuances range is made up of six neutral density filters, ranging from

1 to 10 f-stop reduction.

Designed to fit Cokin's range of creative filter holders, from M to XL sizes, Nuances filters can reportedly be stacked together without colour cast. There's also potential to combine them with other filters from the creative filter system range for those who'd like to experiment with a multiple filter set-up.

Prices start at £59.99 for the ND32 P-series size (5 stops), rising to £149.99 for the ND1024 (10 stops) X-series size.

For the latest news visit www.amateurphotographer.co.uk

Get up & go

The most interesting things to see, to do and to shoot this week. By Jon Stapley



Bristol International Balloon Fiesta

Bristol's skies are set to come alive as hundreds of hot-air balloons fly over the city. With a Red Arrows display and some fireworks also on the cards, the event promises to be a visual feast that should be eminently photogenic.

6-9 August, www.bristolballoonfiesta.co.uk



Brighton Pride

Head to Brighton for another celebration of free love, resplendent with colour and vitality. Pride parades are always a great opportunity for street photography, and you should find no shortage of eager subjects.

1 August www.brighton-pride.org



Edinburgh Festival Fringe

The great Edinburgh Festival Fringe opens for business once again. Soak up some culture, have a few laughs, and see and photograph the sights of Scotland's beautiful capital.

7-31 August www.edfringe.com



Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty

This tribute to the late designer ends this weekend and includes many photographs of the man himself and some of his most famous creations. With its extended opening hours it's not to be missed.

Until 2 August, www.vam.ac.uk

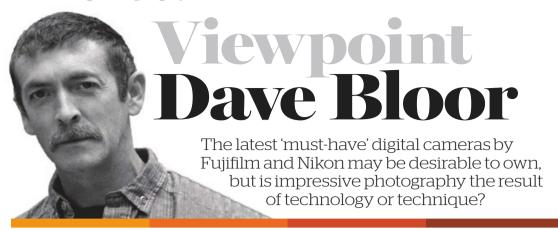
Enter Travel Photographer of the Year

Got your holidays booked? Then it'd be a shame not to have a pop at Travel Photographer of the Year, especially if you're jetting off to exotic climes (not to say that a weekend in Somerset's Quantocks wouldn't make for a great entry).

Until 1 October www.tpoty.com







few years ago, I rekindled a love of photography that I'd first discovered as a child. With my new Fujifilm FinePix S1730, I started taking photographs of practically anything that caught my eye, eagerly posting them on internet sites and awaiting praise or 'likes'.

Not long afterwards, I purchased a Fujifilm FinePix HS10 because, at least in my mind, it was the next 'must-have' camera. Did it improve my photographs? Well, no, not really. Since then, I've bought quite a few must-haves, including a Nikon D90, a Nikon D5100 and my latest camera, a Nikon D7100.

Yes, my photography has improved no end, but – I hasten to add – not because of the cameras. Instead, it's because I've studied photography in more depth.

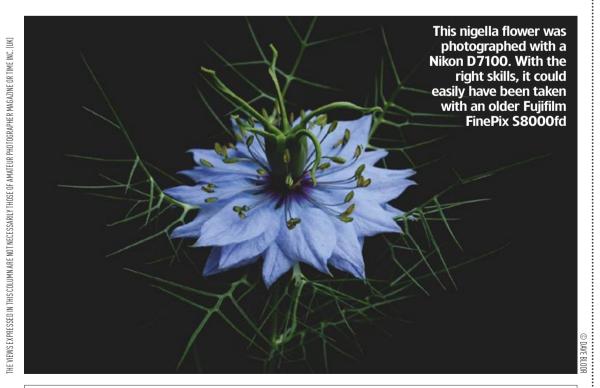
I recently looked back with embarrassment through hundreds of photos I'd taken with my \$1730 and all the other cameras I'd owned, when I realised something important: was the fact that most of the photographs were poorly composed actually due to the camera? Was it the fault of the camera that most of the pictures were incorrectly cropped or horizons weren't level? Was the camera to blame for the noise in the

photographs or was it the fact that I knew nothing about setting the ISO? The same applied to many other aspects of the pictures that I once thought were great. Closer examination showed a lack of basic skills – not at all a fault of the camera.

The secret isn't in owning a fancy new toy. Rather, it's in using all available resources to gain the knowledge and inspiration you need. It's about knowing enough to get the best from the camera you already have. Learning how to control camera settings, lighting, depth of field, composition and the many other aspects of photography will combine to produce better photographs. As Ansel Adams said, 'The single most important component of a camera is the 12 inches behind it.'

Yes, a nice DSLR does produce better-quality images, but only if you know what you're doing. It's like having a sports car in your garage and not knowing how to drive. If only I'd taken the time to master the basics with my first camera before rushing out to buy the next best thing, I could have saved a fortune. In fact, I'd probably now be able to afford that Nikon D810 I really must have.

Dave Bloor has worked as a professional photographer for over three years. He is based in Cheshire.



Do you have something you'd like to get off your chest? Send us your thoughts in around 500 words to the address on page 30 and win a year's digital subscription to AP, worth £79.99

New Books

The latest and best books from the world of photography. By Regan Alexis



Mastering Wildlife Photography

By Richard Garvey-Williams, Ammonite Press, paperback, £19.99, 176 pages, ISBN 978-1-78145-086-4



WITH wildlife photography being one of the most popular genres today, why do you need a book on how to 'master' wildlife photography? Richard Garvey-Williams reveals that wildlife photography is more than taking pictures

of animals. From photography in the field to postproduction, Garvey–Williams takes us on an emotional journey, with fantastic images, excellent tutorials, advice on protecting the environment and explanations of your duty as a photographer.

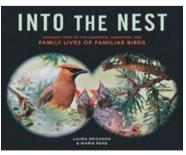
Most handy of all, Garvey–Williams shows off his preferred equipment and techniques for shooting wildlife photography. Covering a wide range of wildlife such as the black rhino and hummingbird, this book is superb for any aspiring wildlife photographer. It is also filled with great facts and figures to ensure you are able to take the best photographs possible.

.....



Into the Nest

By Laura Erickson and Marie Read, Storey Publishing, paperback, £11.19, 208 pages, ISBN 978-1-61212-229-8



WITH this book, you can step into the hidden lives of over 30 different species of North American birds, from birth to first flight, and get the inside look at their nesting and pairing habits. Starting with the

basics, *Into the Nest* shows the beginnings of a chick's life, from the parents pairing together and mating to the hatching of eggs.

After the first couple of pages you jump into detailed descriptions of various birds, from the humble mallard to the American goldfinch, on a journey through the birds' lives. Bird lover or not, this book, with its beautiful photography, is incredibly engaging.









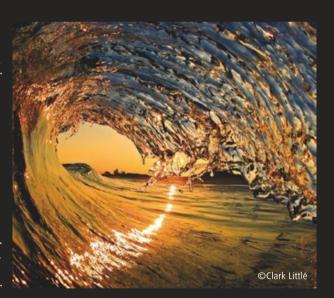






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At the heart of the 'mage





Shoot poppy fields Mark Bauer



Poppies flower annually, usually in summer, but rarely in the same place two years running, so

you need to put in some effort to find a good spot. They usually grow on private farmland, so you need to respect that either by obtaining permission from the landowner or shooting from the side of the road.

Although you can go for deliberate motion blur on a windy day, generally poppies are best photographed in still conditions. Warm early morning or evening light enhances their natural vibrancy, as will a polariser. Sunrise is probably best, as there tends to

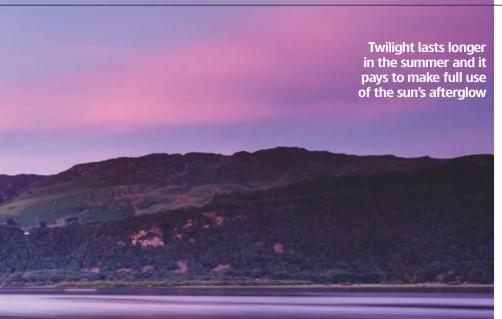
be less wind. If you're lucky, there may be some mist in the background to add atmosphere.

A wideangle lens can emphasise the size of the field and allow you to get in close to individual flowers. A small aperture and focusing a third of the way into the scene will maximise depth of field.

Alternatively, the 'perspective compression' of a telephoto lens can create the impression of a thick carpet of flowers. A long lens and narrow depth of field can also be used to isolate poppies.

So much red in the frame can cause exposure problems; the red channel can oversaturate, causing lost detail. Review images using the RGB histogram and pull back the exposure if the red channel is blown.





2 Don't go before the glow Mark Bauer

Summer is a difficult time for landscape photographers, as the long days mean very early starts and late finishes. At the end of a tiring day it can be tempting to pack your kit away as soon as the sun dips below the horizon. However, if you resist this temptation you could end up with your best pictures of the day.

Twilight lasts longer in summer, so it's possible to continue shooting for longer after sunset and it's often the most photogenic time of day. The strongest colour often occurs after the sun has set — sometimes as long as 20 or 30 minutes — as a warm 'afterglow' spreads across the sky. It's often worth shooting near water, as any reflections will double the impact of the colour. Even after the strongest colour has gone, the light remains

photogenic for a long time.

In terms of technique, you'll need to pay attention to exposure. People often assume that contrast is low after the sun has set, but it can be surprisingly high, as the sky is lit from below, but there is no direct light falling on the land. Therefore, you'll often either need to use graduated filters, or bracket your exposures and blend them in post-processing. As the light drops and exposure times get longer, you'll need to switch to bulb mode so you can lock the shutter open for the desired length of time. Remember that it will be getting darker while the shutter is open, so allow an extra 1/2 to 1 stop of exposure above what you have calculated.

Compositionally, make the most of the colour by getting in close to reflections and look for interesting shapes for foreground interest, or those that can be silhouetted against a colourful sky.

3 Misty mornings Jeremy Walker



As a landscape photographer, misty mornings are a bit of a holy grail for me. They

add mood and drama to an image and give a visual boost. An early start is always painful, especially in the middle of summer, but being greeted with the sun rising over a calm, still landscape shrouded in mist is well worth getting up for.

What do you need? A good alarm clock for one, and to be organised. Pack your bag the night

before and even sort out what you will wear – anything that makes life quicker and easier. Research your location, know your vantage points, where the sun will rise and be ready at least 30 minutes before sunrise as often the light can be good when the sun is just below the horizon.

If possible, try to shoot into the light. Mist that is backlit glows and has more life to it. Sometimes mist will hang around, but it can disappear quickly, so have alternate locations in mind and try make the most of the early start.





4 Harvest Jeremy Walker

Swathes of golden fields being harvested, round bales of straw and fruit trees weighed down with a bumper crop – harvest time offers some great image opportunities.

You'll need to get permission from the landowner if you want to venture onto a farm. They can be dangerous places at the best of times and, even when on a public footpath, don't forget farmers will be concentrating on their job, not looking out for photographers.

Harvesting allows for images with a strong sense of shape and design. Bold lines dominate the fields and orchards, and machinery adds a splash of colour. Look for alternative viewpoints. Get up high and look

down or go for the worm's-eye view looking up through the crops or fruit trees. Make the most of focal lengths and try using long lenses into the light with tractors and combines silhouetted in their own dust for mood and drama. Wideangle lenses will work well close-in on fruit crops and orchards.

If you don't know any farmers and have no access to the open countryside, the harvest can still be happening near you. Look out for local allotments where there's always something interesting to shoot, but again get permission from the locals. Even an apple tree in your back garden or a bramble can be a good subject given the right light. The harvest won't last for long, so take advantage of it.



Technique Landscapes

5 Lavender Adam Burton



You could be forgiven for thinking that lavender-field photography is reserved

for those fortunate enough to visit Provence. While southern France is the place most associated with lavender, there are several farms in the UK that are ideal for photography.

These farms are, of course, private businesses, and permission needs to be gained whenever venturing onto private land. For a small fee some lavender farms open their doors to allow the public in during the flowering months in early summer. However, this probably means you are restricted to shooting from 9am to 5pm, when the light can be harsh. Fortunately, some farms have footpaths running right alongside the lavender, making photography easily achievable at any time from sunrise to sunset.

The key to shooting a lavender field is timing. A visit just a few weeks early and the lavender will

still be green. Too late, and the lavender may have been harvested already.

With intense colour and beautiful receding diagonal lines, lavender is best shot with a mid-range zoom. If you shoot too wide, you'll be looking down over the lavender plants in the immediate foreground and their purple colour will be lost amid the green stems. By shooting slightly further with a mid-range zoom, the lavender will appear more colourful and intense.

It's worth spending some time looking for areas of lavender that are free from weeds, grasses and other plants. These clean patches of lavender can be surprisingly difficult to find, but are always worth the effort. Alternatively, actively seek out a secondary object to break up the pattern of the lavender. Like most subjects, shooting lavender beneath a colourful sunrise or sunset sky can yield rich results. Personally, I prefer to shoot when the sun is low in the sky providing rich sidelighting to the delicate flowers.



'Light is always a key consideration. Head out with a view to capture your pictures early morning or late evening'



Rolling countryside makes an idyllic subject for landscape photography, but it can be surprisingly difficult to shoot. With a lack of available foreground interest, wideangle landscapes can be left lacking any sense of depth. However, this all changes with the arrival of summer, especially after crops have been harvested.

During summer the countryside around the UK is going through a radical transformation. Farmers are busy putting together straw bales, sometimes rectangular, often circular and occasionally collected together as traditional stooks. Whichever process is used, the end result always leaves a feast for the eyes for any landscape photographer.

Where I live in Devon, I most often encounter circular bales and stooks. Being the most unusual, stooks possibly make the most enticing subjects. Each stook is piled into a triangular stack and left in long lines meandering over fields. The end result offers

photographers a series of leading lines to help draw viewers' eyes.

As always, the key to taking a good picture is to spend some time finding your subject. Look for a series of stooks in close proximity to each other, and find lines with interesting curves. Shoot with a wideangle lens to accentuate the nearest stooks and exaggerate the depth in the scene.

Circular bales are usually more of a challenge. Farmers tend to drop these bales in a more haphazard way, so extra care is required to find a good balance within the picture. As circular bales are large, shooting too wide can be problematic. The bale can appear huge and any nearby bales can seem lost in the distance. I find it better to fit a mid-range lens, and zoom into bales slightly further away.

Whichever you decide to shoot, light is always a key consideration. This kind of subject always looks its best in rich, low side-lighting, so head out with a view to capturing your pictures early morning or late evening.





Heather doesn't photograph well in harsh sunlight. The colours show up much better when the sun is hidden behind cloud or near the horizon

7 Shoot infrared Justin Minns



While the majority of the population welcome the long, occasionally sunny days of summer,

landscape photographers generally have a different view.

For us, summer means crawling out of bed in the wee small hours to catch the dawn light or staying out equally late to see the sun go down. During the hours in between, the sun is often too harsh and flat to be of any use for most landscape photography – most, but not all. In contrast, infrared photography is at its most effective on those dreaded bright sunny days, opening up all sorts of creative possibilities.

Put simply, infrared photography involves blocking out visible light and allowing certain wavelengths of infrared light (720nm is the most common) to hit the camera's

sensor. In digital photography this is done either by using a lens filter (such as the Hoya R72) or by having a camera body converted into a dedicated infrared camera. The former is by far the cheaper option, but the darkness of the filter means exposure times are often 30 seconds-plus – a problem not found with converted cameras that are no different in use to a standard body.

Whichever method you decide to use, shoot in raw and with surprisingly little processing the result will be stunning mono images, full of impact with an otherworldly feel to them. Fresh greens are rendered white, blue skies become almost black and the whole image pops with depth and contrast not always visible to the naked eye. You get all of this, as well as the rare chance to have a lie-in and maybe even get a tan.



B Heather-clad moors Colin Roberts



Moorlands can be bleak places, especially in winter when they're largely colourless

and often windswept. But the landscape is transformed during the summer when the heathers come into bloom – an event that peaks in July or August, depending on the location.

Like most botanical subjects, heather doesn't photograph well in harsh sunlight, so avoid shooting when the sun is high in the sky. The pinky-mauve hues show up much better when the sun is near the horizon, or hidden altogether behind a blanket of cloud, as these conditions keep contrast to a minimum, and allow colour and detail to be seen more clearly. Moisture also helps to enrich the scene, by bringing

out the orange tones of moorland grasses (which tend to look pale and bleached when dry), so it pays to exploit the after-effect of rain whenever possible.

While some tracts of moorland can be rather desolate places devoid of features, many are quite the opposite with a variety of subjects to use as focal points. Try using bracken ferns as foreground interest – they spring up randomly across the moor and their pale green fronds make for an eye–catching contrast with the heather.

Silver birch and Scots pine are also common in this type of habitat, and these shapely trees can be used to break the monotony of the horizon. Watch out as well for isolated moorland pools – even very small ones can be made to fill the foreground if you use a wideangle lens to exaggerate the perspective.

Technique events

Cycling events Phil Hall



We may not have the Tour de France whistling through the UK this year, but that's not to

say there aren't any top-flight cycling events to photograph over the summer. With the likes of the RideLondon-Surrey Classic on 2 August and the Tour of Britain kicking off on 6 September, you'll have the chance to see some of the biggest names in cycling and a perfect opportunity to grab some impressive cycling shots. You can get incredibly close to the action as the cyclists fly by.

Think about your positioning. You can take some panning shots on a straight, but try placing vourself at a bend as you'll be able to shoot riders coming towards you and there's a chance they may slow down to take the corner.

To avoid shooting large groups of riders (the peloton), look for major hills on the route where the riders tend to slow down and spread out a bit. There's also much more intensity in the riders' expressions as they push themselves up hill.

A telephoto zoom like a 70-200mm is a great choice, but also pack a wideangle zoom and shoot down low for a dramatic result.



Airshows Geoffrey Lee



At airshows your location will very much dictate what type of images you

achieve. The background is an important consideration as you may have buildings or crowds that could distract from the aircraft, while another vantage point might only offer the best light in the morning or afternoon. On top of that, make sure you have a clear 180° view without obstruction so you can get a good range of vision while panning the aircraft as they fly past.

With regard to lenses, a 70-200mm f/2.8 and 300mm f/2.8 along with a 1.4x teleconverter are a perfect combination on a full-frame DSLR, and this choice can also help keep your camera bag weight to a minimum.

I set my cameras on shutter priority for fast jets and try not to go below 1/500sec, and will go as high as possible to achieve an aperture of between f/5.6-f/8 at ISO 400, depending on the lighting conditions.



Candid street shots



Summer is a great time for candid street photographers like me; the winter is good but

with far fewer people around it makes trying to shoot in a candid way more difficult. I love the summer as all the festivals and events bring lots of people into our cities - and with them come some great characters. For example, there are some amazing images to roads leading to and from the

Don't forget that roads off the main event are often a perfect opportunity to photograph candid images

be had at the Pride events and carnivals, as well as sporting matches. I prefer to stay just outside the main events and look for the characters. The worst part about being in the middle of the main happenings for a candid street photographer is discovering all the extroverts posing and trying to get a portrait.

I like to position myself in the



Subtle shooting from the hip is a good way to go unnoticed in a crowded street scene

events, as I can find more interesting scenes. It's also less crowded so you lower the chance of your image being spoilt by people pushing and shoving. This is a great way to find a really good background and wait for the right subjects to walk into the frame. You can also compose the shot before your subject arrives. I find that holding my Fujifilm X100T to my eye with optical viewfinder

gives me more time to react.

If I find a great subject while walking around, I try to get in front of them without being noticed so I can capture them head on. I try to shoot more and more from the hip these days to add interesting angles. When I shoot digital, I use the tilting rear screens on the Fujifilm X-T10 and X-T1 in the same way that Vivian Maier used to shoot with her Rolleiflex, looking down with the camera around my neck as if I were looking in a ground-glass viewfinder.

To get the most dramatic photos with sharp aircraft against a blurred background, it's best to use larger apertures (f/2.8-f/4) with a lower shutter speed (1/250sec) and a good, steady panning technique as you follow the aircraft passing through at more than 400mph.

With propeller aircraft my shutter speed is set to 1/320sec or below, as any higher shutter speed will freeze the propeller and make the aircraft appear static.

The weather is a key player in how your final results look and one would think that a bright sunny day achieves the best results. However, if it's damp the air pressure drops, so when you get fast, high, G-turning aircraft it causes a condensation cloud to appear over the top surface of the jet as well as wing-tip vortices. This is called the Prandtl-Glauert singularity or vapour-cloud effect, which really enhances photos.

Always look for interesting angles and don't completely fill the frame with aircraft, as smaller planes with a fantastic cloud backdrop make for a better-looking shot.



12 Cricket Michael Topham



By the time you read this, the England cricket team will have played the first Test against the

Aussies in their effort to win back the Ashes from Australia. There's no better place to watch a game than from the stands, and a cricket ground such as Lord's always offers great potential to capture a series of interesting shots of the crowd and the action.

If you were unsuccessful in this year's ballot, there are plenty of shooting opportunities closer to home. A visit to your local village green on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon is the best place to start, and if you're new to cricket photography you'll want to start by

dialling in a 1/500sec shutter speed in shutter priority mode to help freeze the ball and the action as it happens.

You'll need a long telephoto zoom to get to the heart of the action. Make sure you get as close to the boundary edge as possible to fill the frame with the batsman or bowler. Once you've refined your technique and have some

shots you're pleased with, show the team members after the game and they may be interested in a print or two. When you're ready to take on the next challenge, you'll want to attempt photographing a county game or an evening T20 blast in low-light conditions. Check relevant county cricket clubs' websites for a full fixture list.



Get right to the heart of the action with a long telephoto zoom



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EVENTS Technique

13 Bristol International Balloon Fiesta

Craig Roberts



The Bristol International Balloon Fiesta takes place from 6–9 August and is currently in its

37th year. There's a whole weekend of events, including the morning and afternoon ascents.

An early rise is necessary for the morning flights, as these take place

around 6am to suit the conditions ideal for flying. If it is too windy, they often do tethered take-offs, where the balloons are inflated but stay on the ground for safety. The arena will have around 20–30 balloons taking off, so it's a packed environment offering lots of opportunities for frame-filling shots.

You can often shoot with a wideangle lens if a balloon is being inflated near the edge of the roped-off arena, otherwise a telephoto zoom is best to fill the frame with the balloons and also to capture shots of the balloons as they lift off.

If you aren't an early riser, the afternoon flights are a second chance to shoot this event, while a tethered nightglow makes an alternative, if tricky, shoot to do on the Saturday evening. These nightglows require a high ISO for a fast shutter speed to avoid blurring, as it will be very dark,

with only the flames in the balloons illuminating the arena.

If you're going for the weekend, a second viewpoint is from the Clifton Suspension Bridge, where the balloons pass after they depart the arena. You need to get there at least an hour before take-off as it's like a press scrum with dozens of photographers jostling for top spot to frame the balloons with the bridge, but it's certainly a shot worth getting.



14 Music festivals Callum McInerney-Riley



Music festivals are held every weekend throughout the summer around the UK. There

are plenty of different genres of music and festivals, which present exciting opportunities to capture the festival vibe and people having a fantastic time.

Some festivals are enormous and last almost a week, while others are rather more humble affairs with a single stage for the day. With these bigger festivals it's likely that you'll need to be accredited in order to take a camera into the event, but at the

smaller festivals this shouldn't be an issue. However, it's still worth checking in advance as to what you are and aren't allowed to do.

If you can get close to the stage and/or musicians, then take a lens with a wide aperture and shoot it wide open. This will allow you to freeze the action with a faster shutter speed as well as isolate your subject from the background. Also, time your shutter clicking to when the artist is really getting into the groove to ensure you capture the most engaging images. If you have never shot video before, a music festival is a great place to try it out. As soon as a significant song is played, hit record and capture that important moment.



Trying to get close to the action is probably more feasible at smaller festivals



boardwalk in summer on the island of Inner Farne, off the coast of

Northumberland, and you're guaranteed to be mobbed by the breeding terns that have their nests on the island.

Terns are small-to-mediumsized migratory birds that are resident in the UK from late spring to early autumn. Five species of terns can be found breeding in the UK, namely Arctic, common, little, roseate and sandwich. Breeding sites can be found along the UK coast (apart from the south-west)

Arctic terns are by far the most numerous, with around 53,000 breeding pairs in the UK and the largest number found on the Northern Isles. They are also the longest travelling, returning to the Antarctic where they over-winter. Roseate terns are one of the UK's rarest birds with fewer than 90 breeding pairs.

When photographing, avoid causing any disturbance to nesting birds by venturing too close to the terns' nests. At sites like the Farne Islands, keep to the paths and areas that have been marked out

is required to photograph them at their nests.

With their predominantly white plumage, terns make very striking photographic subjects. When in flight, they contrast markedly with blue skies. On overcast days, consider making high-key images with the sky rendered white - the terns will take on an ethereal presence. The coastal locations where terns breed make for great environmental images.

UK locations are Anglesey, Farne Islands, Norfolk, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands.

Andrew Mason A bright flash of blue and orange flying low and fast over the water, a short, sharp whistle and the kingfisher is gone. As well as brief glimpses in flight, kingfishers can also be seen on riverside perches from where they dive for fish, sometimes hovering over the

water before diving.

Kingfishers

Small in size but big in colour, kingfishers are one of the UK's most easily identifiable birds. They are found near clean, slow-moving water, canals and lakes throughout the UK and Ireland, albeit with fewer numbers in Scotland.

There are numerous nature reserves where kingfishers can be seen and photographed, typically from hides set up for birdwatching. At some hides, local photographers have made perches to attract the birds.

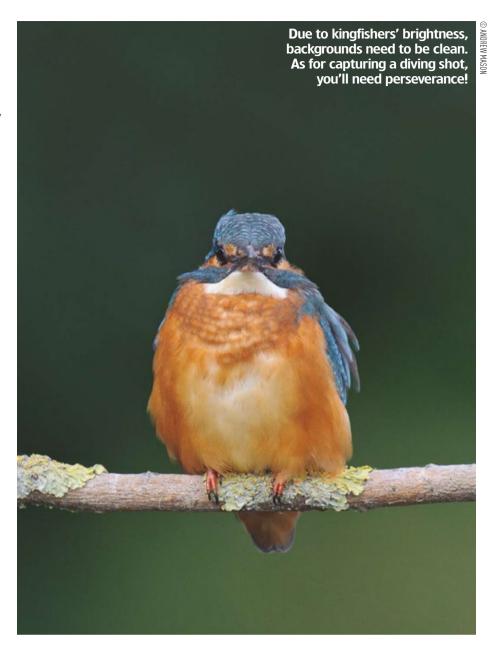
However, at most of these hides, the kingfishers can only be photographed at quite a distance, requiring the use of extreme focal lengths and/or cropping.

A far better option is to find a quiet stretch of water that has resident kingfishers and (with the landowner's permission) set up perches to attract the birds.

By using a portable photography hide - a bag hide will work - or a screen/blind, the kingfishers can be photographed much closer. Avoid nest sites, as kingfishers are protected at these locations and a licence is required to photograph them.

When photographing, consider varying the perches - an old fishing rod makes for a great substitute branch, as do 'No Fishing' signs. As well as working on portraits with a kingfisher isolated against a clean background, experiment with a remote camera and a wideangle lens to create images showing them in their environment.

The hardest images to capture are those of a kingfisher diving for fish. To capture such a shot that's well-composed, in ideal light and in focus is incredibly difficult, but very rewarding.



'Consider varying the perches – an old fishing rod makes for a great substitute branch, as do "No Fishing" signs'

Keep downwind from a rabbit, lie very still under some netting and you could be rewarded with a close encounter

Rabbits **Robert Canis**



Hares are great characters, have a fascinating history, are far less numerous than

rabbits and, as a whole, are very difficult to get good images of, making them more desirable.

Rabbits, on the other hand, are found almost everywhere throughout Britain. However, because of their vast numbers, the fact that they can be found pretty much anywhere and that they have a fixed abode, rabbits are far more accessible and, to top it off, you don't need lots of fieldcraft!

Rabbits have an acute sense of smell, so try to position yourself downwind. Look for somewhere to break up your outline, too, such as patches of nettles, long grass or a hedge. I prefer to shoot at ground level as you get a more intimate perspective, but failing this, sit with your back against a tree. What to wear is also important and you should avoid noisy, brightly

coloured clothing. The more you can conceal yourself, the better.

Rabbits always look good bathed in warm, evening sunlight. Try to arrive a couple of hours before sunset, check the wind direction and settle yourself ten metres or so away (depending on your lens).

If you're lying down, support your camera on a beanbag and throw some scrim netting over your camera. A cushion to support your chest will also make the wait more comfortable.

Lying as still as possible is vital. Being inconspicuous also means there is a chance of observing and, potentially, photographing other kinds of wildlife, so keep your eyes peeled throughout and whatever you do, don't nod off!

Over the years, in the course of photographing rabbits, I've had some amazing close encounters with foxes, buzzards, hares (one ran straight towards me and fed less than a foot away) and owls. It's not just about the photography – it's the experience that goes with it.

Technique wildlife

18 Barn owls Oscar Dewhurst



Recently, the barn owl was beaten into second place by the robin in the quest to determine

Britain's national bird. At this time of year, barn owls can often be found hunting in daylight due to the demand of having to feed chicks regularly, so they can be easier to photograph.

Before you start photographing, though, there are a few things to think about. First, you need to find a location where barn owls are hunting. Look on your local bird-club website to see if there's an area where they're regularly reported. Once you have a location, spend a few early mornings or evenings watching from a distance to work out what their hunting patterns and favoured perches are.

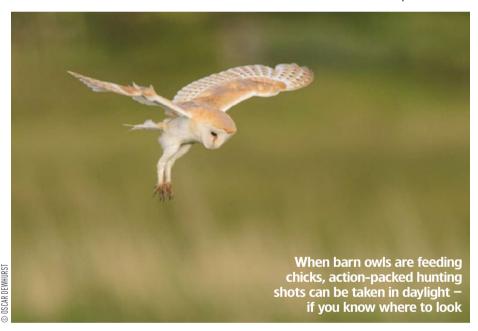
After this, photography will be significantly easier as you can position your hide according to where the owl and sun will be. If it

is on private land, make sure you check with the landowner before setting up your gear.

Equipment-wise, I recommend using a lens over 300mm. For settings, I often use manual mode for barn owls as their light colour can often throw off the camera's metering, especially when combined with a dark background.

Keep a shutter speed of at least 1/500sec to freeze movement, even if this means increasing the ISO and shooting at your widest aperture because light levels early in the morning and late in the evening can be low. However, you can experiment with slower shutter speeds and panning to give motion blur. For this, I find 1/4sec to 1/30sec are best.

Remember, it's an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb barn owls at, on or near an 'active' nest –in other words, any action that causes a nesting bird to behave differently to how it would if an individual were not present.





19 Hedgehogs David Tipling



Hedgehogs were once common, but are now quite scarce in many areas. They are strictly

nocturnal and if you find one roaming around during the day, especially in early autumn, the animal may be sick.

Being nocturnal does not mean they are hard to locate if you have a decent population living in your area. They can be very noisy as they snuffle around looking for food, or chase or interact with one another. However, getting into a good photographic position with a hedgehog is easier said than done, and because it's likely to be dark, a flash or some other form of lighting is essential.

'By providing a water dish and supplementary food in your garden, you may be able to attract hedgehogs to a chosen spot'

While many of us may enjoy hot, dry weather in summer, hedgehogs do not. Sun-baked earth means their favoured food, such as earthworms, slugs and other small invertebrates, can prove hard to find. By providing a water dish and supplementary food in your garden or local wood, you may be able to attract

hedgehogs to a chosen spot. This is by far the best and most productive method for photography. Try any meat-based dog or cat food, or dried mealworms and peanuts used for bird feeders, but avoid putting out milk on saucers, as hedgehogs cannot tolerate lactose.

Once you have a hedgehog visiting, you can build a 'wild' set, perhaps with a grassland or woodland feel. Encourage them to live in your garden by building or buying a hedgehog house. If finding a wild animal proves too challenging, try contacting your local hedgehog rescue centre – they may well be able to offer you opportunities to photograph animals being nursed back to health or ones ready for release.





20 Close-up insects Mat Perry



You don't need expensive macro lenses to shoot stunning close-up images. If

you've got a DSLR, all you need is a compatible (inexpensive) reversing ring and lens. I mainly shoot with either a 28mm or 20mm prime lens reversed onto a Nikon D5100, although for best results I use a lens that has a manual aperture ring as all control of the aperture via the camera will be lost once the lens is reversed.

I shoot with an aperture of f/8 or f/11 with the fastest shutter speed that my camera will allow me to sync with the flash (which, for me, is 1/250sec) and to expose my subject correctly, I adjust the flash power output or the ISO to fine tune the exposure.

For lighting, I use a small flashgun with a DIY softbox made from a Chinese noodle box and a piece of polystyrene that came with a frozen pizza.

I've experimented with all kinds

of materials to diffuse the flash, from tissue paper to milk-carton plastic, but I find a thin piece of polystyrene gives the most pleasing results.

The depth of field is very small with reverse macro, so I try to use two to three photographs with different areas of the subject in focus and then automatically stack them together in Photoshop. The working distance is also very small and this is where patience and a steady hand come into play, as you have to bring the subject very close to the lens.

When photographing insects, I find the best time of day is at dawn when they're at their most docile. Sometimes an insect will happily sit there and pose while you snap away, but the majority of times they won't, so perseverance is definitely key.

Reverse macro is a very inexpensive form of photography. Both my lenses were bought for less than £20 and, with a bit of practice and perseverance, the results can be amazing.





21 Bird drinking pool David Tipling

Not knowing what will appear next is one of the great attractions of photographing birds at a drinking pool. In high summer, when puddles dry out, the local bird population will seek out a reliable water source to visit at least once a day. Individuals of some species may make multiple appearances.

During extended dry periods, keeping a drinking pool topped up along a farm track or quiet country lane may lure a continual stream of birds. Shooting from a vehicle may then be possible. Stretch some netting across the window to further conceal your movements.

Another option is to create a drinking pool in your garden.

I recently constructed a pool in a woodland using plastic pond moulding I bought from a garden centre. By stacking up stones at the far end, until just below the water surface, I created a shallow enough area for birds to bathe in. I lined the sides with moss to create an attractive background and concealed the pond sides.

As an added attraction, I added a solar-powered pump with a sunken fountain that moves the water around the pool. Ripples or water movement help attract birds down to the pool.

A cheap way of doing this is to fill a plastic bottle with water. Make a pinprick in its base so it drips, then hang it by its neck above your pool. The dripping is especially attractive to warblers.





Capture the Moment with Green Acres Woodland Burials

apture the Moment is an amateur photographic competition launched by GreenAcres Woodland Burials, which will run throughout this summer until 31 August 2015. Amateur photographers and photography enthusiasts of all ages are invited into one of the five GreenAcres parks to take photos of the stunning woodland.

Entering the competition is simple: just visit a GreenAcres park with your camera and snap away. Then upload your best photo to www.greenacreswoodlandburials. co.uk/CaptureTheMoment to stand a chance of winning a great prize.

You can't fail to be impressed as you walk through the gates of a GreenAcres park and, with over 220 acres to discover, there's bound to be something that will attract any nature-loving photographer's attention. You can choose from Colney in Norfolk, Epping Forest in Essex, Chiltern in Buckinghamshire, Rainford in Merseyside and the newly opened Heatherley Wood in East Hampshire. For more details of where to find your nearest park, visit www.greenacreswoodlandburials. co.uk/findapark.

GreenAcres parks are more than cemeteries; they are naturally lovely areas open to everyone to enjoy. Each park is uniquely beautiful, providing safe habitats for an array of flowers, plants and wildlife. The woodlands are an idyllic setting for a wide spectrum of people, all of whom share a kinship with the forest surroundings. This beauty is something they want to share with their friends and families when they are gone, and it creates a vital link between the natural course of life and the loved ones they leave behind.

The parks play host to local community events, including the Working Woodland Day that attracts more than 1,000 visitors to the Epping Forest, Chiltern and Rainford parks. Other events throughout the year include bug hunting, orienteering for children, Easter egg hunts, music in the woodland and services of remembrance.

Such events are integral to our plan to encourage and appreciate the woodland in each park. Other events take place all year round, giving the community the chance to see the woodland in all its guises and not just in the spring and summer months.



About GreenAcres

What is a Green Acres woodland burial?

A burial at a GreenAcres Woodland Burial park is carried out in a similar way to that of a traditional burial, but your loved one or their ashes will be buried in a woodland environment instead of a traditional cemetery or crematorium. GreenAcres is committed to the long-term care of the woodland, so a proportion of every plot bought for burial or ashes ahead of time is kept secure in an independent trust fund that helps maintain the woodland for many years to come – creating a legacy for those who are buried in the parks.

What makes Green Acres Woodland Burials special?

Each GreenAcres park provides a place of peace and tranquillity set within a haven of beautiful English woodlands, giving families the time and space they need to say goodbye. These parks provide award-winning customer service staff to help work with families and funeral directors to ensure your final goodbye is just as you would have wanted it. And what's more, after the burial or funeral service, the parks are open and staffed 365 days a year, helping provide an environment of comfort.

What do you offer?

GreenAcres Woodland Burials offers a variety of options to suit every family. Whether it's a full burial, burying or scattering of ashes, or a service in one of the ceremonial buildings before or after the cremation, families can trust GreenAcres Woodland Burials to provide a special place of remembrance. GreenAcres has been operating for nearly two decades and has served hundreds of families. But above all it prides itself on its integrity and respect for all those who use one of its parks.

For more information visit www.greenacreswoodlandburials.co.uk

NATURE Technique

22 A rainbow world Philip Smith

I like the phrase 'riot of colour'. It makes me think of coming into a late-summer garden

and being struck by the sight of vibrant flowers stretching out in all directions and flopping over the paths.

Making sense of the 'riot' is a delightful challenge for a photographer. When we look at a border of flowers our brains are constantly editing out what we don't want to include in the scene. To make the 'riot' work as a photograph we have to be selective. But how can make that selection? It helps to have an awareness of harmony in colour theory as described by the colour wheel (above).

It pays to look out for complementary colours, those that are opposite each other on the wheel, such as reds with greens and yellows with purple-blues. These combinations communicate a sense of harmony with drama

and energy. Analogous

to each other on
the wheel – for
example, tones
of green with
shades of
blue. This
colour
harmony
communicates
a more wistful,
romantic feel
within the scene.
You can use colour

theory as a starting point. It helps to go out with the idea of only photographing colour and ignoring other kinds of content. This will help to develop your own awareness of how colours work together.



Strong sunlight in midsummer can play havoc with flower photography. Using a reflector can help bounce natural light back into the subject from the front to even out the exposure. This is very useful when photographing backlit subjects to lift shadow areas, where using fill-in flash can often be too harsh.

I use a Lastolite difflector when I need to soften out the whole subject by diffusing the sunlight falling on the flower. In this example, a difflector was held over the flower – like a cloud offering light shade – with a small Lastolite reflector held under the flower. With a need for three hands, if you're working on your own a tripod and remote release (held in the same hand as the difflector) are essential.

Crocosmia 'Lucifer'. Reds and oranges combined with

green foliage create

a sense of drama

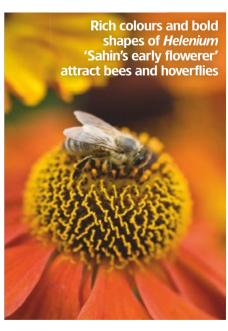
Right: Without reflector or diffuser. Far right: With difflector and reflector. Note how the tones of the daylily's buds in the diffused picture are subdued, leading the eye to the stamens of the flower and the dominant yellow colour



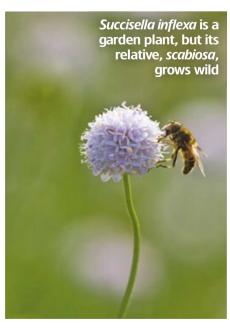


24 Flowers to look out for Philip Smith









Technique portraits

25 Photograph people doing their hobby Adam Duckworth



When the weather gets warmer and the days are longer, many people take the chance to really

get stuck into their hobbies, sports and pastimes. Whether it's riding bicycles, going fishing or taking a spin on a motorbike or in a car that they've spent the winter restoring, everyone loves a great picture showing them enjoying their chosen interest.

Many people define who they are by what they do in their leisure time. They may be a street sweeper by day but in their heart they're a surfer, golfer, rail operator or BMX racer! So it's a prime opportunity to capture a portrait that shows something more than just what a person looks like. It's a chance to show what they're interested in and how they spend their time.

Finding someone with a fascinating hobby is usually pretty easy. Ask around your friends and



Capture your sitter in his natural environment with the tools of his trade

family and chances are you'll discover someone with a pastime that's unusual or particularly photographic. If that fails, look around for events in your local area where you'll find lots of participants who'll be eager to pose for you.

The key to a decent portrait is to get the person in the right clothing and put them in a location that really works for their chosen hobby. You probably wouldn't

want to shoot a surfer in a city centre, but that's exactly where you would want to photograph a death-defying parkour runner, for example. If there's an obvious item of equipment that the subject uses, it's always good to include that as well – such as a skateboard, bicycle, boat or radio-controlled car.

Avoid simply plonking the person behind or next to their bit of kit, smiling into the lens – it can

end up looking like a press shot for a local newspaper. Instead, try to get them to relax and look as natural as possible. Use a variety of viewpoints and different focal-length lenses – from wideangles that really show off the environment to longer telephoto lenses that can target the subject while throwing the background out of focus. Get the subject to look at the camera in some shots, and off-camera in others.

Great lighting can also work wonders. Midday sun is best avoided as it's contrasty and not flattering. Try shooting at the start or end of the day, or even night-time if that works for your subject. The use of reflectors or off-camera flash can transform a scene, too.

Remember that the devil is in the detail. Look around the edges of the frame to make sure there's nothing creeping into the shot. Make sure the pose, location, kit and clothing suit the subject and you've thought about composition and lighting. And have fun. After all, it's your hobby!



Use filters Dave Kai-Piper



Shooting in bright conditions doesn't necessarily go hand-inhand with the wide and

fast apertures we often desire for a shallow-depth-of-field portrait. The high light levels can mean that we have to stop the lens down and lose that bokeh we crave in order to get a balanced exposure - even with shutter speeds as high as 1/8,000sec.

This is where neutral-density filters come into play. Thanks to their ability to limit the amount of light passing through the lens, you'll be able to open up your lens to work at your desired aperture without overexposing your shot. They are available in different strengths, so you can select the right ND filter for the light levels you're working with.

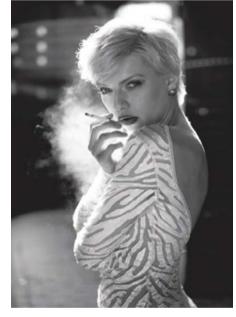


28 Using natural shadows **Dave Kai-Piper**

Using natural light can be fun, especially when you use shadows to your advantage.

Watch where the sun is and where the shadows are falling, then use them to creative effect. This can be something as simple as having your model face into a shady area, perhaps with eyes closed or allowing the sitter's eyes to open up for a really intense gaze.

You could try something a little more complex, such as working 'shadow play' into your shots.

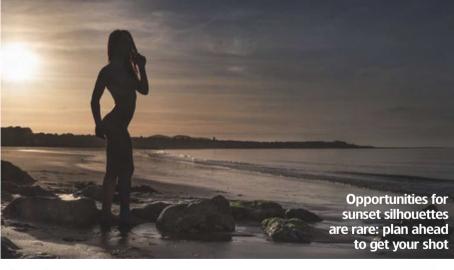


Avoid shooting in the midday sun **Dave Kai-Piper**

Shooting with the sun at its peak height, at midday or thereabouts, is never a good idea, as the harsh light will see shadows fall harshly on your subject.

If you can, find summer shade to avoid this or turn the subject away from facing the sun, otherwise they'll end up squinting and you'll find it harder to control your exposures.

It goes without saying that to avoid this, you should try to shoot earlier or later in the day.



Shoot silhouettes **Dave Kai-Piper**

Using the late summer sun can produce wonderful effects that are not possible at other times of the year. Check the time the sun sets and head out an hour before to see where the sun will be.

When it comes to metering, you should expose for the sunset so vour model is underexposed, resulting in them being silhouetted against the setting sun. To avoid any unwanted flare, place your model directly in the path of the sun, creating a shadow for you to stand in, and shoot.



Know when to use your lens hood **Dave Kai-Piper**

When it comes to photography, there's often no right or wrong way, yet it helps to be able to control effects so you can use them as and when you want.

Some images will look outstanding with flare introduced and some are better without it. Letting the light from any source go directly down the camera's lens will create flare, so using a lens hood will reduce this. If you want to go further, use a matte box for even greater control.



summer essentials

We've listed seven pieces of kit that'll help you take great photographs, whether you're travelling around the UK or venturing abroad

Freeloader CamCaddy 2 universal charger

£20 • www.solartechnology.co.uk

This handy universal battery charger makes it possible to charge the block-style batteries many cameras use. While the original CamCaddy had issues with build quality, the CamCaddy 2 has a much better design than its predecessor. A highlight of its overhaul is that it now features a Micro USB power input. This allows users to charge their camera batteries with a cable attached to any kind of USB power source, including power banks, laptops, USB plugs and even some car chargers. For long summer days out travelling between shoots, it's a very useful alternative to carrying loads of spare batteries.



Olympus Stylus Tough TG-4

● £300 • www.olympus.co.uk

If you're heading to the beach, wading through water, doing any kind of extreme sport or just happen to be very accident prone, a tough camera is a good call. The Olympus Stylus Tough TG-4 will survive being dropped, knocked, crushed or frozen, and can even shoot images and video underwater to a depth of 15m. In AP's testing of all the current tough cameras on the market, the TG-4 ranked best, giving great image quality from its 16-million-pixel BSI CMOS sensor and remaining reliably rugged throughout some rigorous assessment.

Ansmann All-In-One travel plug adapter

■ £16.95 ■ www.ansmann.de

If you're travelling abroad this summer and plan to visit different countries, then the Ansmann All-In-One travel plug is a must-have. You simply choose which plug socket you want to adapt to, and then push down one of the four corresponding sliders to release the right adapter. These cover Australian, American and European plugs, with a total of 150 compatible countries. You can also plug multiple types of plug into the adapter itself, and it's adapted to suit UK plugs, among others.

Sirui T-005X travel tripod

● £99 ● www.sirui.de

The last thing you want to do on a hot summer's day is lug around a hefty tripod; so the lightweight aluminium Sirui T-005X may be just what you need. With the ball head attached it weighs just over 1kg, and stands at 32.5cm when closed with a maximum height of 139cm, a minimum height of just 19cm and a maximum payload of 4kg. It strikes an impressive balance between strength, size, weight and height, and represents good value for money. A big bonus is that the slimline C-10X ball head comes included with the tripod. and its build quality is just as impressive.















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LETTER OF THE WEEK

When I left school in 1977, my dream was to become a professional photographer. I wrote to all my local newspapers and to every photo studio I found in the Yellow Pages, asking if they would consider taking me on as a trainee. Sadly, every one of them turned me down, saying they didn't have any vacancies but would keep my details on file. One suggested that I go to university to do a degree in photography, but when I found out that I had to do a year's art foundation course first, I decided that it wasn't for me. Disheartened, I gave up and went into finance instead. I've probably earned more money through this career, but my dream has always remained.

I was recently sorting out some old papers and found every one of those

rejection letters, carefully

stored in their original envelopes. It stirred memories of my youth and passion, and got me thinking once again about photography as a profession. So 38 years after all those rejection letters, I have now decided to take a City & Guilds course in photography to see if I can finally realise my dream.

I wonder if those businesses I contacted still have my details - I still have theirs!

Andrew Henning, Warwickshire

There's a long list of successful people who have been inspired by rejection to achieve great things. Steven Spielberg was turned down by film school three times, and even Albert Einstein failed to get into Zurich Polytechnic. Hold on to your dream and good luck - Nigel **Atherton, Editor**



With ultra-fast performance, the new Samsung 16GB EVO SD card, Class 10, Grade 1, offers up to 48MB/sec transfer speed and has a ten-year warranty.

www.samsung.com

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Film fan

I love the hipsters! I owe them thanks for helping make film a 'thing' again. I bought three colour films from Poundland (I think you can guess how much they cost per roll) and now I am on my way to my local Boots in Croydon to drop off some rolls for one-hour developing.

I encourage film fans to take advantage of film becoming cheap and easy once again. I'll bet many readers still own their film cameras, or would perhaps like to try a Lomography camera. It's a great feeling when someone hands you developed prints no eye strain shifting tiny sliders in Lightroom.

Lisa Singh, Greater London

Film has indeed enjoyed a resurgence of interest recently, mostly from young people under 25 who have grown up in a digital world and are drawn to the idea of creating something physical and unique. AP is one of the few mainstream magazines still covering traditional photography and we have some great features on the subject coming up over the next few months - Nigel **Atherton, Editor**

The test of time

I found your article on Philip Jones Griffiths (AP 11 July) very interesting, particularly the various cameras that he used over many years.

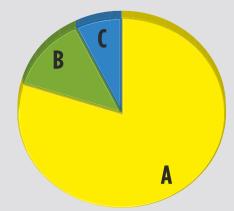
My interest in photography started during the Second World War, when film was nigh on impossible to buy. However, at the end of the war it was possible to obtain surplus RAF panchromatic plates (halfplate size) that I used with Underwood and Thornton-Pickard cameras with excellent results. The camera lens was f/6.3 rectilinear that I stopped down f/16 or lower, with an exposure time of

about 2secs. Since then, I've continued to buy various makes of cameras and have put their lenses to a simple test for colour convergence.

I do this by taking a shot of a distant TV aerial, then enlarging the image to see if it's sharp or blurring, and also by shooting a large piece of square paper to check for astigmatism. If the camera lens doesn't meet my requirements, I dispose of it. I do still have many cameras, including a Mamiya RB67, Fujifilm 645S and Nikon, Minolta Autocord and Pentax models whose lenses are very reliable. I've also got many old lenses that date back to the year dot, which give remarkably good results.

I found that some Russian lenses gave excellent results - particularly the Leica-fitting Jupiter lens that was sometimes used in preference to a Leica lens.

I now occasionally use



In AP 11 July, we asked... Do you own a 50mm lens?

You answered...

A Yes	80%	
B No	13%	
C Yes, if a 50mm equivalent counts	7%	

What you said

'I did have the Canon EF 50 f/1.4 USM, but sold it to help fund my EF 24-70mm f/2.8L. I'm tempted to pick up the new Canon 50mm STM, though'

'I started photography back in 1987 and have had a 50mm ever since. My current one is the SMC Pentax-DA 50mm f/1.8. I also regularly use a Pentax-DA 40mm. I value the extra speed and sharpness over a zoom'

'I have three, one is the Minolta MD Macro Rokkor-X 100mm f/3.5°

'I'm a Leica film user and a Leica 50mm f/2 Summicron M is obligatory. I have a couple for the Nikon film SLRs and DSLRs. Why not, since they're such a bargain? They cost less than a decent memory card'

'My "nifty fifty" is usually on my Nikon most days'

'Yes. With my Nikon D70 it's the lightest outfit in my collection, and so probably the most used'

Join the debate on the AP forum

This week we ask

How important is autofocus tracking with moving subjects to you?

Vote online www.amateurphotographer.co.uk

Guess the date



Every other week we post an old AP cover on our Facebook page and all you have to do is guess the issue date (day/month/year). To guess the date of this cover (above), head over to www.facebook.com/ Amateur.photographer.magazine. Forum members can also enter via the Forum.



The camera in AP 11 July was the Canon Dial 35. The winner is Antony J Shepherd whose correct guess was the first drawn at random.

a Canon digital camera, but regret to say that I am seldom satisfied with the results. I felt that I got better images with a camera that required some effort and expertise, rather than one that just requires the push of a button and hope for the best. **FW Davies, Tyne and Wear**

Hicks up

Roger Hicks did a splendid thing by bringing attention to the superb 'Spitalfields Nippers' photographs (right) taken by Horace Warner in the early part of the 20th century (AP 4 July). Totally valid was the closing remark about how we need to consider our approach when taking photographs of the disadvantaged, as we 'try to make a difference'.

However, what was less splendid was Hicks's ungracious remark that The Gentle Author – who sought out the previously unpublished photographs – used a 'somewhat twee pseudonym'. Some would say that for affectation, you'd perhaps only need to glance at Roger's own monocled face pictured at the top of the column.

Ultimately, labels are relatively unimportant. What matters is that Warner's work has deservedly been brought to a much wider audience



The previously unpublished 'Spitalfields Nippers' photographs by Horace Warner were unearthed by The Gentle Author

than the photographic community by The Gentle Author. Hicks's contribution is small in comparison.

David Cantor, Surrey

Roger does a great job of bringing fascinating but

lesser-known images to our attention, and his critiques are often highly opinionated. I find them interesting and thought provoking, even if I don't always agree with them – Nigel Atherton, Editor

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We rate the best devices to project your images, whether for show at your camera club or at home

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40mm	49	72mm	86-105
40.5mm	37-58	77mm	58-105
43mm	37-72	82mm	72-105
43.5mm	46-58	86mm	72-105
46mm	37-62	93mm	82
48mm	46-58	95mm	82-105
49mm	37-77	105mm	86-95
52mm	46-77		

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Following the rediscovery of the long-lost TV Times photographic archive, photographer **Rod Ebdon** takes **Oliver Atwell** on a trip through the annals of British showbiz history

ou may remember that in AP 23 May we broke the story of how Time Inc UK rediscovered an exceptionally rare collection of portraits and on-set photographs of various stars of music,

entertainment and sport. All the original negatives had remained unseen since their publication in *TV Times* magazine some 50 years earlier. The collection was host to a variety of images of stars like Peter Sellers, Woody Allen, The

Peter Sellers just before his appearance on Granada's film show, *Cinema*, which screened on 12 October 1972

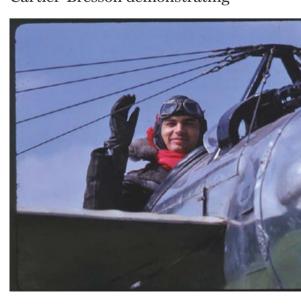


Beatles and Diana Rigg, as well as some images taken by superstar photographers Helmut Newton, Cecil Beaton and David Bailey.

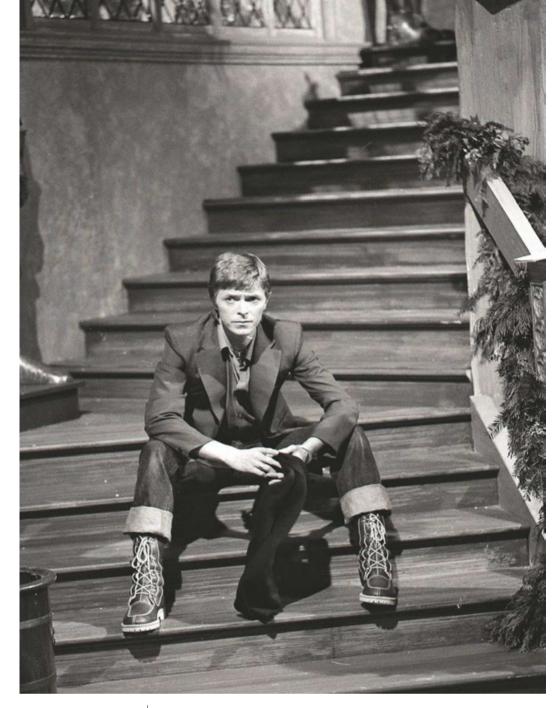
After a bit of detective work, we can reveal that one of the TV Times staff photographers was Rod Ebdon. Rod has spent the past four decades working his way through pretty much all aspects of photography, including magazine, broadcast, photojournalism, fashion, beauty and, more recently, weddings. He joined the TV Times staff in 1962, and back then the photography department was a small outfit. However, they soon realised that they needed more hands in the darkroom. Rod joined and worked his way up from handling chemicals in the darkroom to becoming a printer/photographer.

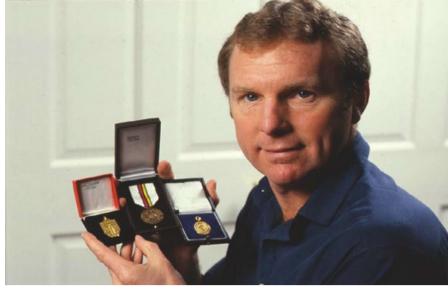
'In those early days I was using a Rolleicord, which I'd bought for about £74,' says Rod. 'It was a great camera but quite slow to use, and the fastest black & white film we had then was 200 ASA, which is incredibly slow by modern standards. The film was fine generally, but when we went into a television studio to shoot, the lights were so dim. That was still a problem when we moved onto colour film and I was shooting with a tungsten Kodak 160 ASA film. Again, the lights were set low in the studios and had this orange glow. The colour stuff could look bloody awful, frankly.'

Back when Rod first started, the people who worked on *TV Times* consisted mainly of ex-newspaper members who had come from a background of working with 5x4in negatives before the standard changed to shooting with 120 film and the Rolleiflex cameras. SLRs and 35mm had yet to find their place within UK magazines and newspapers, despite famous photographers such as Henri Cartier-Bresson demonstrating



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Above: Singer David Bowie, 1977

Top right: The late Bobby Moore displays a small selection of the medals he collected throughout his footballing career

Above right: Actor Oliver Reed takes a break from filming

Below: The shoot with Engelbert Humperdinck that *TV Times* was forced to drop



the versatility of the format.

'That was the mentality,' says Rod. 'The magazine wasn't really run by picture people, it was run by words people. Peter Bolton, another photographer on the staff, had a Leica, which I loved but it was sort of old-fashioned. I ended up buying a Nikon F around 1965. So I had this beautiful 35mm that I wasn't allowed to use. I'd take images with it, but they were never published.'

Up in the air

Everything was to change in 1969 when TV Times underwent a radical redesign. Money was poured into the magazine to finance a complete makeover. 'Suddenly there was money where there wasn't before,' says Rod. Peter Jackson was brought in as the new editor and fought hard not only to ensure the staff benefited financially, but also to radicalise the kind of content the magazine produced. Perhaps the most important change, at least for Rod, came in the form of Gordon Moore, who was brought in as the TV Times art editor and was instrumental in the redesign. From that moment all the photographers were issued with 35mm cameras and Kodachrome film. The shoots became, as Rod says, a lot more fanciful.

'In those early days I was using a Rolleicord, which I'd bought for about £74'

'One of the first big ones we did was with the singer Engelbert Humperdinck,' recalls Rod. 'We were looking for any angle to jazz things up. Someone found out that Engelbert was learning to fly, so naturally we dressed him up as the German fighter pilot Manfred von Richthofen, otherwise known as the Red Baron [see left]. We took Engelbert to an airfield west of London where there was a replica aircraft of a Fokker Eindecker from the First World War. Engelbert was dressed up in a cap, boots and coat - the whole pilot kit. We did a few shots, with him standing on the airstrip and the plane behind him. Then we did another set featuring a pilot dressed in the same clothes who flew up so I could get some air-to-air shots from another aircraft.'

The shoot was incredibly successful and the *TV Times* staff managed to pull it off without a hitch; that is, until it was revealed that someone else in the area had

taken some pictures unbeknown to the team. The shots then appeared in the *Daily Mirror*, ruining the surprise and impact of those that were due to run in *TV Times*. The Engelbert feature was supposed to be one of the first big stories to run after the relaunch, but sadly the team were forced to pull it altogether.

Rubbing shoulders

Navigating your way through the variety of images taken by Rod during his 28 years at *TV Times* is dizzying. Bobby Moore, Peter Sellers, David Bowie and David Niven all put in an appearance. One figure who made an impact, as he did with the majority of people who encountered him, was actor Oliver Reed.

"The image you see here [above] was the first time I shot him,' says Rod. 'He was at Twickenham Film Studios making a feature film. It was around the early '70s and I can't remember the movie, unfortunately. The second time I photographed him was interesting. The writer and I visited him in his home in Surrey. There were hundreds of acres and stables. Oliver would always turn up wearing beautiful suits and







Up to date

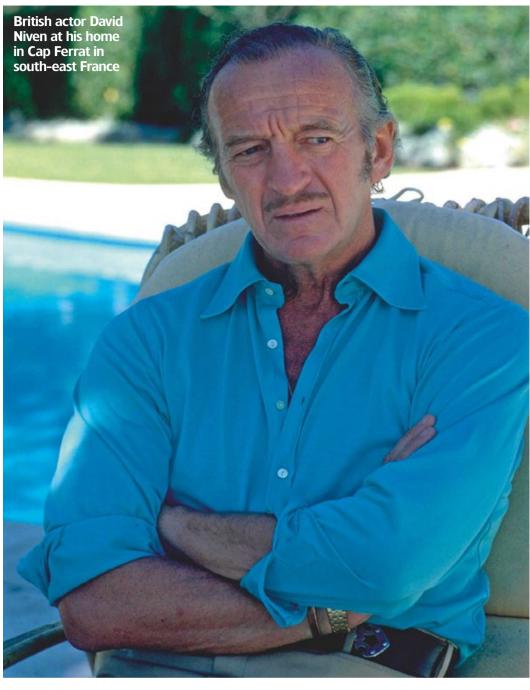
For someone with so many years under his belt, it would be tempting to think that Rod would be happy to hang up his camera strap and take in some sun, but he shows no signs of slowing down. He moved into the realm of stills photography for shows such as *The Darling Buds of May* and *Peak Practice*.

'Working on the ITV show *Hornblower* was lovely,' says Rod. 'The show was shot in foreign

Top left: Ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev in rehearsals for *Giselle*, 1980

Above left: Rod Ebdon posing with some of his pictures

Rod Ebdon's career has spanned decades and has seen him as one of the principle photographers on *TV Times*, as well as the stills photographer for a number of television shows. Most recently, he has begun shooting weddings. Find out more at www.rodebdonphotography.co.uk



locations, and as it was a period show the uniforms were beautiful. Everywhere I turned there was something to shoot. I've worked on a great number of series, but I did carry on working for magazines for a while. It's what I really liked doing, although I started losing my contacts. Magazines change so quickly these days. Picture editors move or get promoted. I used to turn up at interviews and think, "Gosh, I could be your father". Then very quickly it became, "I could be your grandfather"."

Something else that Rod found as time moved on, was that the shifts in the media and photography landscapes required him to make a move into the digital world. It wasn't a change Rod took to immediately, but as technology advanced the benefits of digital began to outweigh the shortcomings.

'There was real excitement waiting for the film after processing,' says Rod. 'There was a lot at stake, and the effort and costs involved in some of the big assignments added to this.

Sometimes the team were waiting for the pictures to get them off to press urgently with very little time and, on some occasions, no back-up feature. But I really had to go digital to keep with the times.

While in the beginning I was a little resistant, I can't deny things have got a lot better. Perhaps the best thing is that you can now shoot under very bad lighting conditions. It's also made my life a lot easier. I used to carry a Hasselblad in the car, as well as two or three Nikons and some lighting equipment. Once I started working with digital, I didn't need any of that. I could start using public transport. I can arrive on location with just a camera and maybe a spare body.'

We'll hear more from Rod when AP and Time Inc UK celebrate the 60th anniversary of *TV Times* with a huge display of previously unseen images. But for now, we have a small selection Rod's images to enjoy, many of which contain more history than many other photographers can hope to capture in a lifetime.

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In November 2014, Nikon Japan announced a very special limited-edition black and gold model of its Nikon Df camera. The new model was only available in Japan in limited quantities and was released by the end of the year. The body-only model was released in a limited run of only 600 units. The kit edition included a special gold version of the AF-S 50mm f/1.8G Nikkor in a 1,000-unit run. To pair with the limited-edition camera, Nikon also introduced a number of gold accessories, which include a gold shutter release AR-11G and a AN-DC9G matching strap.

With the Nikon Df Gold, Nikon opted for a much more subtle approach than they have done in the past with the Nikon FM Gold and Nikon FA Gold, only giving it a few gold accents where they would have the most impact. This subtlety also means Nikon's rendition is much more attractive and we are informed it was an immediate sell-out in Japan. Grays of Westminster are delighted to announce they have secured an example of this unique kit. NEW £5,000

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Below is a list of this year's rounds, a synopsis of what we're looking for and the dates they will be announced. When you are planning your entry, remember to take into consideration the criteria of fulfilling the brief, creativity and technical excellence on which you will be judged.

Theme	Synopsis	Announced	Closes	Results
Night Life	Low-light photography	7 Mar	29 Mar	25 Apr
Going Abstract	Abstract images	4 Apr	26 Apr	30 May
The Wider Perspective	Creative wideangle	2 May	31 May	27 June
In Focus	Shallow depth of field	6 June	28 June	25 July
Up Close	Macro (insects/flowers/plants)) 4 Jul	26 Jul	29 Aug
On the Street	Street photography	1 Aug	30 Aug	26 Sep
Lie of the Land	Landscapes and cityscapes	5 Sep	27 Sep	24 Oct
Shades of Grey	Black & white	3 Oct	1 Nov	28 Nov

How to enter via email: For full details of how to enter via email and for terms and conditions, visit **www.amateurphotographer.co.uk/apoy15**



This month's prize

Win a Sigma dp2 Quattro compact digital camera and a VF-41 viewfinder accessory

The Sigma dp2 Quattro compact digital camera incorporates a newly developed Foveon X3 Direct CMOS image sensor. Unique among image sensors, the Foveon Direct image sensor is similar to traditional colour film in that its multiple layers capture all the information that visible liaht transmits. Along with Sigma's proprietary image-processing technology, this sensor

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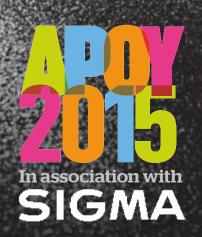


Round Six On the Street

STREET photography is as popular as it ever was and is easily accessible to most photographers. Even if you don't live in a street alongside other people, you almost certainly travel to, and work in, places where the rich tapestry of street life chugs on like a well-oiled machine. All you have to do is photograph it, and show the rest of the world what happens in that location. There can be a great temptation to head to the biggest, most bustling place you can find, but you don't need to. Street pictures can be shot as

easily beside the quiet and seemingly empty village post office as they can among the maddening crowd streaming past the Bank of England.

This round is about capturing the atmosphere of a place, and to do that a picture needs to show that place and what goes on there. We don't have to be able to detect where the picture was taken, but we do need to get a feel for what it is like to be there and what sort of people we'd be likely to meet. So get out there and keep your eyes peeled.





Interesting light

THE STREET photographer isn't beholden to the characteristics of the sky to determine the kind of light on offer. You can travel to places with interesting light and find directional light even on an overcast day. Light gets funnelled between buildings, through tunnels and under bridges. On a clear day, you can use this directional light to highlight your subject with a powerful beam while keeping the rest of the frame in shadow, particularly when using exposure compensation.



Round Six On the streets

The city awaits. Here are some tips to set you on your way to creating a winning urban composition



The absurd

WE ENCOUNTER many people on our day-to-day travels and the one thing we can all be sure of is that they're certainly a strange bunch. One of the hallmarks of street photography is recognising absurd and strange situations, and then reacting quickly. It also takes a keen eye to witness the myriad bizarre juxtapositions that can come together in the circus of the street. Like so many aspects of photography, practice is key, but eventually these things will reveal themselves.



Shapes and lines

EVERY street structure that you see is made from lines and shapes, and you should make the most of them to create impact and excitement in your pictures. Look out for the drama of the edge of a kerb that darts diagonally across the frame, or the wall of a car park that leads the eye to the figure coming down stairs. Office blocks are structures waiting to come to life – brutal shapes interacting with the people who inhabit that place. There's a whole world of opportunity.

New angles

SO MANY pictures are taken by photographers holding a camera at about head height and giving a very ordinary view of the world. Make your pictures stand out. Shooting from waist level is a good start, and for a more dramatic angle you could place the camera close to the ground to give your subjects a dramatic presence. This image from Gary Telford is a great example, although you attempt an angle like this at your own risk!



RULES 1. Entrants may submit only one photograph per month, as an sRGB JPEG file that is 2,700-3,000 pixels along its longest dimension, an unmounted print (max size 210 x 297mm) or slide (no glass mounts please), in colour or black & white 2. The entrant's name, address and daytime phone number must once again, and the body copy of your email must include your name, address, daytime telephone number, the camera model, lens and exposure details. 4. Photos submitted must be your own work, must not be copied, must not contain any third-party materials and/or content that you do not have permission to use and must not otherwise be obscene, defamalory or in breach of any applicable legislation or regulations. If Time Inc (UK) has reason to believe your entry is not your own work or otherwise breaches this rule, your photos will NOT be considered 5. Photos must not previously have been published in anticomal UK photography magazine. 6. Copyright of all entires remains with the photographer, but Ir mile not (UK), Sigma and their associated group companies to reproduce your photos in electronic format and hard copy including for display at an exhibition, in Time Inc (UK)S Amateur Photographer magazine and on Time Inc (UK) Sigma and their associated group companies to reproduce your photos in electronic format and hard copy including for display at an exhibition, in Time Inc (UK)S Amateur Photographer magazine and on Time Inc (UK) Sigma and their associated group companies to reproduce your photos in electronic format and hard copy including for display at an exhibition, in Time Inc (UK)S Amateur Photographer magazine and on Time Inc (UK) Sigma for the photographer magazine and on Time Inc (UK) Sigma for the photographer magazine and on Time Inc (UK) Sigma for the photographer magazine and on Time Inc (UK) Sigma for the photographer magazine and on Time Inc (UK) Sigma for their photographer magazine and on Time Inc (UK) Sigma for their photographer magazine and on Time Inc (UK) Sigma for their photographer magazine and



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Concentrating the focus

THE MAIN interest in this photograph by Gordon Clark is the young boy playing the guitar, with his dog fast asleep behind him. With a shot like this it might help to include passers-by in order to tell a more complete story or add interest, but I don't think the woman captured in this shot adds anything to the composition,

especially as she is walking away from the boy and not engaged with him in any way. For this reason I reckon the photograph could be improved by applying a tighter crop so that the focus is solely on the boy and his guitar. In my view, the cropped version transforms the photograph completely and works much better.

Submit your images

Please see the 'Send us your pictures' section on page 3 for details or visit www.amateur photographer.co.uk





1 Crop the image

In this first step, I went to the Lens Corrections panel and clicked on the Level button to straighten the line of the pavement. Because I wanted to remove the lady on the left I applied a tight crop to the boy, which more or less preserved the same aspect ratio as the original.

2 Apply Basic panel adjustments

Next, I wanted to optimise the tones for this cropped version of the image. In this step I went to the Basic panel. I lightened the Exposure slightly and also increased the Shadows slider setting to lighten the shadow tones, while taking down the Blacks slider to improve the shadow contrast.





3 Select the Radial Filter tool

Finally, I selected the Radial Filter tool in Camera Raw and added a Radial Filter adjustment centred on the boy. Here, I had the Outside button selected and applied a negative Exposure adjustment combined with a negative Highlights and negative Shadows adjustment.

Filling in the shadows



HERE IS a photograph by Brett Davies that has great potential. The main features here are the colourful truck and the people in the scene, so I wanted to adjust the cropping to keep the focus on these elements. You can tell from the shadows that this photograph was shot around midday with the sun directly overhead. In fact, the Exif metadata confirms that the image was shot at 12:20pm. This is not an ideal time to be taking photographs because the sun is so high in the sky. However, with some careful editing it was possible to fill in the shadow areas and reduce the overall contrast present in the original photograph. The key here was to apply delicate tonal adjustments and, where possible, to do so locally rather than globally. It is tempting simply to raise the Shadows or Fill Light slider, but the results can often look rather artificial.



1 Apply a crop
The first step was to crop the image. The centre of focus here is clearly the man who was deliberately posing for the camera. At the same time, I wanted to remove some of the distracting elements, such as the man who is walking into the scene from the left and the outline of the man standing on the right.





2 Basic panel adjustments Having done that, I went to the Basic panel and applied

the adjustments shown here, where I applied a slight lightening to the Exposure slider. I set the Highlights to -100 to preserve as much detail as possible in the highlights and also applied a positive Shadows adjustment to lighten the darker shadow areas.



3 Localised adjustments

I then added a Radial Filter adjustment, set to apply an adjustment to the inside area only. I applied a positive Highlights and positive Shadows adjustment to lighten the main person in the shot and make him stand out from his surroundings. I also selected the Graduated Filter tool and added a graduated adjustment to the top section.



Shadows adjustments in Camera Raw

THE SHADOWS slider was introduced as part of the Camera Raw/Lightroom Process Version upgrade to Process 2012. This slider sort of replaces the former Fill Light slider, in that a positive Shadows adjustment can be used to lighten the shadow to midtone areas. You can also drag the slider to apply a negative value, which can be used to apply a darkening adjustment. The range extends slightly beyond

the midtones, but the greatest effect is concentrated in the shadow tone areas. Be warned that as you increase the value above a ±50 range, a Shadows adjustment will be applied via a halo mask, which can result in an artificial-looking image. For instance, in the example shown, I applied a global +100 Shadows adjustment, which gave the image a rather overprocessed look.

Martin Evening is a noted expert in both photography and digital imaging. He is well known in London for his fashion and beauty work, for which he has won several awards. Martin has worked with the Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Lightroom engineering teams over many years and is one of the founding members of a software design company. Visit www.martinevening.com

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Michael Topham puts 3 Legged Thing's latest carbon-fibre travel tripod to the test

At a glance

- Maximum working height: 140.6cm
- Minimum working height: 19.5cm
- Closed folded length: 34cm
- Supports up to 20kg with leg locks set at 23°

3 LEGGED Thing is a company known for its quirky product names and the latest addition to the Evolution 3 range is Rick – a carbon–fibre travel tripod designed for those looking for a compact and lightweight tripod to support a small DSLR or CSC. Thanks to its removable and reversible centre column, it's a set of sticks that will allow those who like to work from low angles to do so easily. The legs can be set to 23°, 55° or 80°, and the quick-release plate that connects to the supplied AirHed Mohawk ball head is compatible with Peak Design camera clips, so users can connect a camera to a strap or belt without attaching a separate plate. The new parallel twist-type leg locks unscrew by half a turn to save time extending and tightening the legs.

Once out of its canvas carry case, I managed to extend the tripod fully to its maximum 140.6cm working height in just under 40 seconds. Fully extended, the legs did show signs of flexing when serious force was applied, but the locks refuse to slip provided they're fully tightened. The detachable monopod is an attractive feature, but on a tripod of this size it's very small and won't see regular use unless you're happy to crouch or use it when sitting.

Verdict

Although it's hard to fault the finish, the bronze, orange and blue colours won't be to everyone's liking, and I would have preferred the smaller locking knobs on the ball head to be rubberised to enhance the grip and improve operation. As travel tripods go, it's light and folds down to a practical size, but if you're prepared to settle on an aluminium alternative there are great travel tripod options available at half the price.

Weight

The carbon-fibre legs ensure this is a lightweight set of sticks. On the scales it weighs 1.1kg.

Parallel locks

The TPR 80 parallel locks ensure that the leg locks don't totally unscrew.

Monopod This orange anodised

Quick release

The square quick-release plate is compatible with

Peak Design capture clips and is Arca

Swiss compatible.

ring indicates the leg that can be unscrewed and used as a monopod.

Amateur Photographer Testbench

ALSO CONSIDER

Vanguard VEO 204AB

£100, www. vanguardworld.co.uk The VEO 204AB extends up to 135cm and folds down to 38cm. It weighs 1.3kg, and features a 4kg load capacity.

MeFOTO BackPacker A0350QOK

Extendable to 130cm and with a closed length of 32cm, the A0350Q0K weighs 1.2kg and has a Q-series ball head that supports the Arca Swiss style quick-release plate.

Manfrotto Befree Carbon

£280, www.manfrotto.co.uk
The Befree Carbon
weighs the same as
the 3 Legged Thing
[1.1kg] and is
retractable to 40cm.
It comes with
a solid aluminium
ball head and can
support a load



up to 4kg.

PNY Roll-it Micro-USB Charge and Sync Cable



CHANCES are you'll have seen a retractable USB cable that has two connectors and can be 'rolled out' to reveal a length of cable. They come included in a variety of devices, but are usually very flimsy, as the cable needs to be allowed to wrap around the mechanism in the middle.

PNY's new Roll-it Charge and Sync Cable uses the same concept, but brings to it the high level of quality we'd expect from PNY. A retractable USB cable is housed in a durable plastic outer shell that's covered with a hardwearing flat-profile coating. Two different versions are available, sporting either an Apple Lightning connector or a Micro USB connector that's standard for Android devices. Both allow syncing, charging and file transferring, and should you need to charge your device and transfer images you can easily use these cables to do so.

If you're tired of having a mess of wires inside your bag, this is the device for you. Although at present PNY's version is relatively expensive at £24.99 in comparison to similar brands, its compact design and durability make it just about the best out there. **Callum McInerney-Riley**



Re-fuel by Digipower rechargeable power bank

£32 • www.digipowersolutions.com
 THERE is an abundance of options out there for charging mobile devices on the move, and

the Re-fuel power bank from Digipower has a 5200mAh capacity and a 1A (5V) output rating. With a single USB port at one end and a Micro USB input port for charging purposes, it has a curved design and is finished with lime-coloured ends to make it easier

to find when stowed away in a bag. On the top surface there's a single button to start charging and check the remaining power of the lithium polymer battery, which is indicated by four tiny bright-white LEDs. Out of the box, I used the supplied Micro USB cable to fully charge it before testing it hooked up to my iPhone.

Charging times are fairly brisk and it increased my iPhone's battery life from 2% to 50% in just over an hour with power to spare. Although it can be used to charge a tablet, you'll quickly find that it is underpowered in this respect. Overall, it's a practical size and handy for when your smartphone runs low. **Michael Topham**



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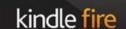
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The Canon EOS 760D shares similarities with the 750D, but does it justify a higher price and is it the best choice for aspiring enthusiasts? **Michael Topham** finds out

For and against



19 all-cross-type AF points for accurate subject tracking



Wi-Fi and NFC connectivity for easy sharing and transfer



Extremely responsive 3in, 1.04-million-dot vari-angle touchscreen



Viewfinder doesn't provide 100% frame coverage



Doesn't accept the 700D's LP-E8 battery



No weather sealing

Where in the range



Canon EOS 750D Price £530 (body only)

Positioned just below the 760D is the 750D. It features the same 24.2-million-pixel sensor and has a basic layout that's best suited to newcomers to the EOS system.



Canon EOS 70D

Price £735 (body only) The 20.2-million pixel 70D shoots at up to 7fps and features Dual-Pixel CMOS AF, providing an ultra-fast autofocus response in live view mode.

Data file

Sensor

IS₀

Output size Focal length mag 1.6x Lens mount: File format Shutter speeds

Exposure modes

Exposure comp Metering

Drive Movie **Display**

Focusing

Memory card **Dimensions** Weight

24.2-million-pixel, APS-C-sized CMOS sensor

6,000x4,000 pixels

Canon EF/EF-S JPEG, raw, JPEG+raw 30secs-1/4000sec 100-12,800

(expandable to ISO 25,600) PASM, scene intelligent auto, creative auto, scene

±5EV in 1/3EV or 1/2EV steps 7,560-pixel RGB+IR metering sensor

1,920x1,080 pixels at 30, 25, 24fps 3in, 1.04-million-dot vari-angle touchscreen

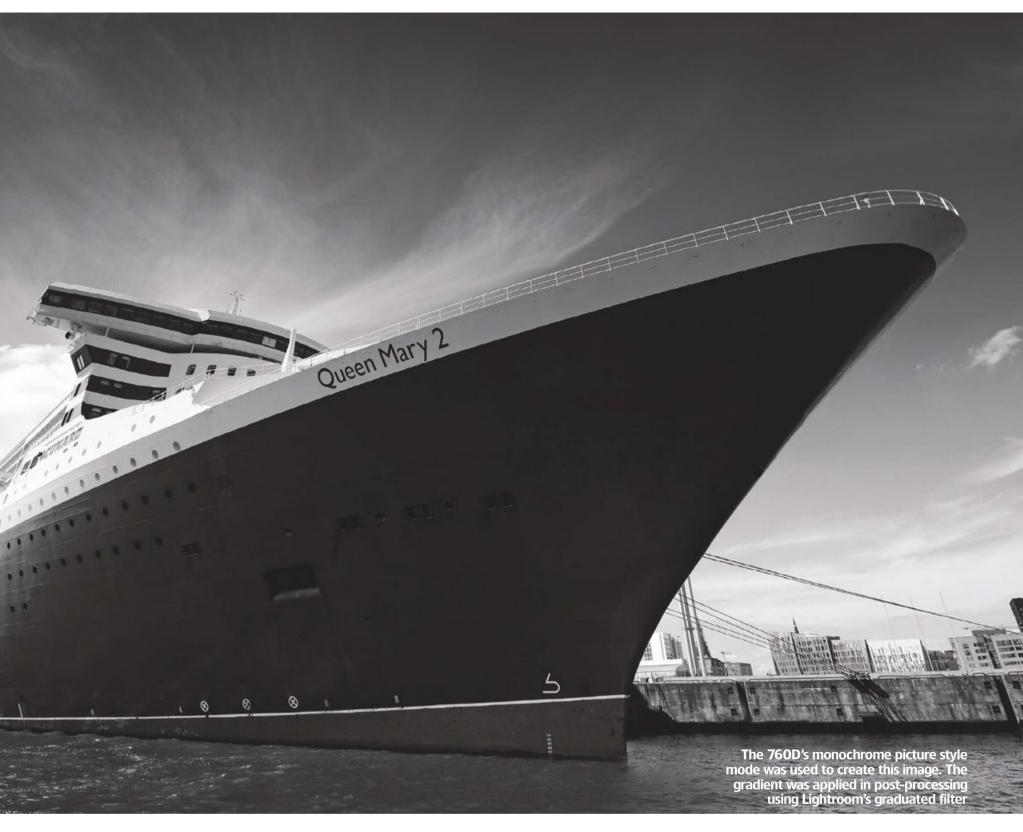
19 cross-type AF points (f/2.8 at centre) SD, SDHC, SDXC (UHS-1)

131.9x100.9x77.8mm 565g (body only)



unveiled the EOS 750D and EOS 760D earlier in the year, there were many, myself included, who struggled to understand why a manufacturer would go to the effort of creating two models so similar with near-identical specifications. For those who remain unsure of the differences, the EOS 750D is targeted at people new to the EOS system, such as those stepping up from a more basic compact or a smartphone who want greater flexibility and more manual control, whereas the EOS 760D is aimed at aspiring enthusiasts who are much surer of what they want.

The thought process behind creating two similar models with



virtually identical specifications but different designs ultimately gives the consumer more choice and underlines Canon's ethos of providing a DSLR in the EOS system that's suitable for everyone. Given that the EOS 700D is also continuing in Canon's range and there are no fewer than four DSLRs that sit beneath the EOS 760D, the range of cameras for those taking their first steps into DSLR photography has never been better. It's time to find out how the 760D compares to the 750D and whether it's Canon's best three-digit DSLR to date.

Features

Just like the 750D, the 760D features a 24.2-million-pixel APS-C CMOS sensor that has a

higher pixel count than the 18-million-pixel sensor found in the two-year-old EOS 700D. Despite the jump in resolution, the new sensor provides the same standard sensitivity range of ISO 100-12,800, with an extended ISO 25,600 setting also available. To ensure the 760D is capable of processing its higher resolution files as fast as possible, Canon has paired the new chip with its latest DIGIC 6 image processor, allowing it to shoot a continuous burst at up to 5fps. Despite this being no faster than the EOS 700D's shooting speed, the burst depth has seen a significant improvement. Where it was previously possible to rattle off 22 JPEGs or six raw files at 5fps on the 700D, it's now possible to

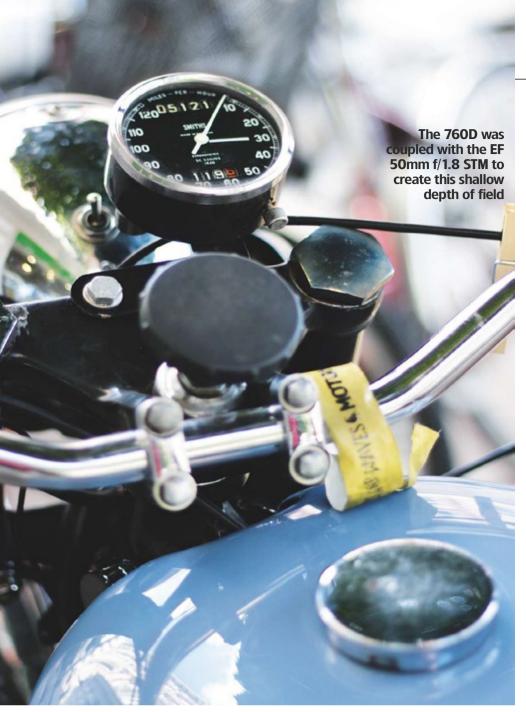
shoot 940 JPEGs or up to eight raw files consecutively on the 760D. To offer a comparison, the 760D's closest rival, the Nikon D5500, also shoots at 5fps.

For some time now we've got used to Canon rolling out beginner DSLRs with a nine-point diamond formation AF system, so it's refreshing to see the EOS 760D offering a more sophisticated 19-point all-cross-type AF system. This is the same AF system as found on the EOS 750D and the arrangement of AF points, combined with a working range of -0.5EV to 18EV, is identical to Canon's more advanced EOS 70D.

When shooting in live view, the EOS 760D features the same Hybrid CMOS AF III system as the

EOS M3, rather than Canon's Dual Pixel CMOS AF technology that's used in the EOS 70D. It's a system that Canon claims is close to the speed of Dual Pixel AF and it uses sensor-based phase-detection points to enhance focus speed both when recording video and shooting stills in live view.

On the topic of video, flicking the on/off switch all the way to the right engages the 760D's video mode where the maximum native sensitivity setting is ISO 6,400, expandable to ISO 12,800. Much like the 750D, full HD video (1,920x1,080) is captured at 30, 25 or 24fps. There's a 3.5mm mic port at the side of the camera, with the option to control sound levels manually. Lowering the resolution to 1,280x720



also allows you to shoot at 60, 50 or 30fps if preferred.

At the rear of the 760D the optical viewfinder reveals 95% coverage of the frame with a magnification of 0.82x. Unlike the 750D, a small electronic level icon can be switched on within the menu to ensure horizons aren't captured askew, and beneath the viewfinder Canon has opted to keep the same 3in touch-sensitive Clear View II TFT screen that impressed us on the 700D and is also featured on the 750D. This offers a resolution of 1.04 million dots and displays in the 3:2 aspect ratio to match the aspect ratio of the imaging sensor.

The 760D also improves upon the 700D in other areas, notably its 7,560-pixel metering sensor that's sensitive to red, green, blue and infrared light. To further improve exposure accuracy, the metering is linked to the selected AF points in evaluative mode, with partial (6% of viewfinder), spot (3.5% of viewfinder) and centreweighted modes all available.

Other features include a shutter range of 30-1/4000sec, ±5EV exposure-compensation control and a small pop up flash that has a

guide number of 12m @ ISO 100. It accepts the LP-E17 battery, which provides a battery life of up to 440 shots on a single charge and there's a battery grip available (the GB-E18), which is also compatible with the 750D.

To satisfy those who'd like to control the camera wirelessly, as well as those who want to share images to mobile devices, the 760D comes Wi-Fi and NFC equipped. The camera's wireless connectivity ties in well with Canon's EOS Remote app that's free to download via the App Store for iOS devices or Google Play for Android. It's one of the better apps available and lets you transfer images quickly, offers AF point adjustment directly from a separate device's screen and control of key exposure settings such as shutter speed, aperture, ISO sensitivity and exposure compensation.

Build and handling

On first glance the differences between the 750D and 760D are neither radical nor particularly obvious, but they are significant. On closer inspection you'll notice that the 760D is the more advanced looking of the two, with



1 Wi-Fi function

To set up the EOS 760D's Wi-Fi, it first has to be enabled from the menu. Next, you'll want to move down to the Wi-Fi function and hit the SET button.



2 Connect to phone

To connect the camera to a smartphone, move to the smartphone icon (second from the left). The Info button allows you to reassign a new Wi-Fi nickname.



3 Network settings

Next, you'll be presented with the network settings. Select Easy Connection and use the D-pad to move down through the options and select OK.



4 Enter encryption

After finding the Wi-Fi nickname from your Wi-Fi settings on your smartphone, you're required to input an encryption key before initiating the connection.

Canon EOS Remote app

AFTER a Wi-Fi connection has successfully been made between the camera and your mobile device, you'll want to load the EOS Remote app that's free to download from the iOS App Store and Google Play.

Opening the app will give you two options – you can either review the images you've taken or enter remote shooting mode. Selecting the former enables you to inspect images at a larger size, view the Exif data and select the shots you'd like to save to your mobile device

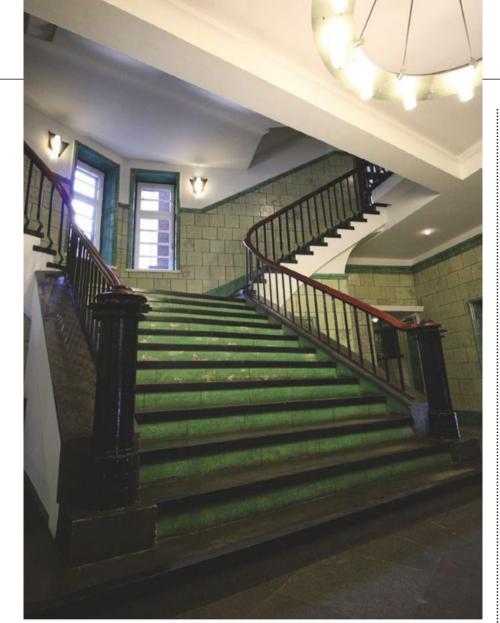
before they can be shared.

The remote shooting option allows you to control the camera wirelessly. There's the option to adjust shutter speed, aperture and exposure compensation values in addition to repositioning the AF point around the frame. Shooting mode, white balance, focus mode and metering mode icons are also revealed, but these settings can't be adjusted. The app response is quick and there's no delay when the shutter is fired from the app.





The EOS Remote app is intuitive to use on a smartphone and features an uncomplicated layout



Users of the 760D can confidently shoot at ISO 3200 in low-light scenes

its mode dial shunted to the left of the top-plate to free up room on the right for an LCD panel. Until now, all of Canon's three-digit DSLRs have been without an LCD panel on the top-plate – a feature we're used to seeing on advanced models targeted at enthusiasts. The overall design is more in keeping with the 70D than the 700D, and the aluminium alloy chassis and polycarbonate resin with glass-fibre finish combine well to give it a reassuringly strong feel in the hand.

Unlike the 750D that has its on/off switch offset to the side of the mode dial, on the 760D the on/off switch is positioned below the mode dial. Whereas the 750D lets you turn the camera on, control the shooting modes and drive it all from your right hand with exception to the main menu and info buttons, the 760D brings your left hand into play much more. Those with an eye for detail will also notice that the 760D has a locking-mode dial to prevent the shooting mode unintentionally being changed or knocked on the move.

The cosmetic differences between the 750D and 760D extend to the rear panel. The rotational thumb wheel provides independent control of aperture in manual mode – something that's

only possible on the 750D by pressing the exposurecompensation button and using the single command dial on the top-plate. The rear thumb wheel doubles up as a handy way of adjusting exposure compensation in program, aperture priority and shutter priority modes - the only drawbacks being that it's a touch on the small side and doesn't offer the same level of resistance as the rear dials on Canon's more expensive enthusiast DSLRs.

Above the viewfinder there's a small sensor that turns off the display on the rear screen when the camera is raised to the eye. This helps to preserve battery life and to ensure it doesn't become a nuisance in use. It's rather clever in its behaviour, automatically deactivating when settings are adjusted via the quick menu and when shots are inspected in playback mode.

The pair of zoom buttons are great for zooming in and inspecting image sharpness in playback mode, but how often they'll see use depends on the type of user and whether they'd prefer to take advantage of pinch-and-zoom gestures via the touchscreen. On the subject of the screen, there's a deep indent at the rear of the body that allows it to be pulled out

Focal points

The 760D is aimed at enthusiasts who would like independent control of key exposure variables

Mode dial

Unlike the 750D's mode dial found on the right of the top-plate, the 760D's mode dial is positioned on the left with the on/off switch beneath. It's of the locking type and requires the central button to be depressed

Battery

The rechargeable Li-Ion LP-E17 battery is rated for 440 shots on a single charge. Canon produces the BG-E18 battery grip too (£99) that accommodates two LP-E17 batteries and helps to improve vertical shooting.

Canon

LCD display Although it's petite, the

top-plate LCD displays all the important information you'll want, including ISO, shutter speed, aperture, exposure compensation (-2EV to +2EV), battery life and the number of shots remaining

Exposure



Connectors Microphone, HDMI,

00

compensation remote release and an The 760D provides ±5EV A/V out port are found exposure-compensation at the side of the body control. In manual mode the beneath two rubberised rear thumb wheel controls doors that sit flush to aperture, but in program, the body when none of aperture priority and shutter the interface ports is priority modes it can be used being used. to adjust the exposure compensation on the fly. M [212] 6 -0 C\$ 1000 8.0 3.2.1.2.1.2.3 P12800

131.9mm



The 760D's evaluative metering performed well in tricky lighting conditions

more easily than the 700D's display, and the articulation mechanism is fluid with just the right level of resistance.

Performance

The performance of the 760D is identical to that of the 750D, although this is hardly surprising given that the two cameras share the same innards and only differ slightly in their external design. Conducting a test of the processing power revealed that the camera is capable of shooting JPEG files continuously at 5fps for as long as the shutter is depressed, just like the 750D. Switching the file format to raw asked more of the DIGIC 6 processor, but it still happily recorded 8 frames at 5fps to our Lexar Professional 2,000x 64GB SDXC UHS-II memory card before requiring a breather.

Compared to its rivals, the 760D's arrangement of 19 autofocus points across the frame is superior to the 11-point AF array as offered by the Pentax K-S2. However, it's no match for the impressive 39-point AF system found on the Nikon D5500. The AF points are well laid out, with five points top to bottom in the centre, reducing to two rows of three points, with two single points at the edge. As on the 750D, there's the option to reposition the AF point using the touchscreen or the D-pad, but when the camera is raised to the eye, the eye sensor automatically turns the screen feed off so you're reliant on using the latter. Entering Zone AF allows you to select from five areas, with the central area covering nine AF points as opposed to four at the sides and top and bottom of the frame.

As we've come to expect from Canon, the touchscreen

responsiveness is particularly impressive and can't be faulted. Although some of the icons in the main menu appear small, they're easy to pinpoint by touch. Zooming into images did reveal there's a fraction of a second delay before an image is rendered at full quality, and the same can be said when swiping across the screen with your finger while reviewing shots in playback mode.

Pairing the 760D with our 10-18mm f/4.5-5.6 IS STM lens revealed a fast, silent and smooth focus acquisition both in and out of live view. The idea of Canon's stepping motor technology (STM) is to ensure fast focusing while eliminating any nasty whirring noises that can disturb audio recording. It's particularly effective and no alarming or off-putting autofocus noises were traced in video footage. The focus-tracking feature is also handy for maintaining focus on an area in a scene when the camera is panning or moving, and it can keep up to speed with most subjects provided they don't move too erratically.

To balance highlight and shadows in-camera, users have the option to select from three auto lighting optimizer modes, with the option to disable it altogether. There's an HDR backlight control mode too within the scene modes that combines three exposures to create an image with a wider dynamic range, but to resolve ultimate sharpness it should only be used to capture static subjects. The 7,560-pixel metering system can generally be relied upon to produce accurate exposures and there were only a few occasions where I found the need to dial in -0.7EV to preserve highlight detail in high-contrast scenes where highlight clipping was obvious.

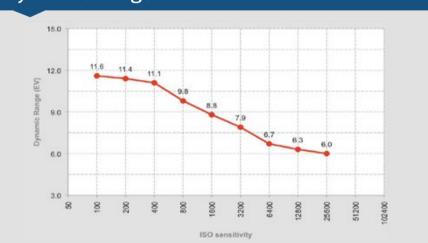
Lab results

Andrew Sydenham's lab tests reveal just how the camera performs

Canon has been put under pressure from other manufacturers to increase the resolution of its beginner DSLRs, so the 24.2-million-pixel sensor the 750D and 760D employ bring both models in line with the company's closest rivals. Whereas the Pentax K-S2 and Nikon D5500 both go without an anti-aliasing filter in a bid to resolve the finest levels of detail, the 750D and 760D hold on to an anti-aliasing filter. With this in place, the 760D doesn't resolve quite the same super-fine level of detail, but the 3,200l/ph the sensor resolves at ISO 100 is what we'd expect from an APS-C sensor with an anti-aliasing filter.

Just like the 750D, the 760D's dynamic range is a little way off the best results we've recorded from DSLRs that feature 24-million-pixel sensors. The lower dynamic range readout across the ISO indicates that less shadow detail to be pulled back from its raw files.

Dynamic range



At ISO 100, the 760D delivers 11.6 stops of dynamic range – a readout that's lower than the 13.3EV and 12.5EV output from the Nikon D5500 and Pentax K-S2 respectively at the same sensitivity. Beyond ISO 1,600, the dynamic range falls to 7.9EV at

ISO 3,200, 6.7EV at ISO 6,400 and 6.3EV at ISO 12,800. The expanded ISO 25,600 setting sees the dynamic range drop to 6EV and, as mentioned above, such low readings at high ISO reveal that shadow detail is heavily affected by noise.

Resolution



The 760D produces an identical level of detail to the 750D and at its base sensitivity setting the 24.2-million-pixel sensor resolves 3,200l/ph. Users can expect the resolution to drop gradually as the sensitivity is increased, but a close inspection of our resolution chart revealed 3,000l/ph are resolved up to ISO 800. The sensor preserves 2,800l/ph up to ISO 3,200, but from this point onwards detail deteriorates more rapidly as the sensitivity is increased to about 2,600l/ph at ISO 6,400, reducing to 2,400l/ph at ISO 12,800.



Amateur Photographer



Our cameras and lenses are tested using the industry standard Image Engineering IQ-Analyser software. Visit www.image-engineering.de for more details

Noise

Both raw and JPEG images taken from our diorama scene are captured at the full range of ISO settings. The camera is placed in its default setting for JPEG images. Raw images are sharpened and noise reduction applied, to strike the best balance between resolution and noise.



JPEG ISO 100



JPEG ISO 400



JPEG ISO 800 JPEG ISO 3,200





JPEG ISO 12,800







The images above are printed at a resolution of 300ppi, reflecting a high-quality print. Clean, noise-free images are produced between ISO 100 and ISO 400, and it's only when you move up to ISO 800 that the first traces of luminance noise become apparent. Noise at ISO 800 is by no means offensive and the noise reduction automatically applied by the camera to its JPEG files doesn't have an obvious impact on the level of detail captured until you reach ISO 3,200. Beyond ISO 3,200 there's an increasing level of noise introduced into JPEG and raw files. ISO 6,400 is usable provided some noise reduction is applied later in post-production and images aren't printed too large. Pushing up to ISO 12,800 and 25,600 sees chroma noise introduced, which is most noticeable in the images shot at the 760D's ISO ceiling and can be traced in the ISO 25,600 thumbnail image above.

The competition



Nikon D5500

Price £600 (with 18-55mm VR II lens)

Sensor 24.2-million-pixel APS-C CMOS

With a 24.2MP sensor, fully articulated touchscreen, 5fps continuous shooting and built-in Wi-Fi, Nikon's D5500 is one of the D760's closest rivals. It also features a sophisticated 39-point autofocus system.



Pentax K-S2

Price £580 (with 18-50mm WR lens)

Sensor 20-million-pixel APS-C CMOS

The Pentax K-S2 is a dustproof, weather-resistant DSLR boasting a 3in articulated screen and 100% viewfinder coverage. It has an 11-point AF system, shoots at up to 5.4fps and features an ISO range of 100-51,200.



Olympus OM-D E-M10

Price £485 (with 14-42mm lens)

Sensor 16.1-million-pixel Four Thirds MOS

Offering DSLR-like handling in a compact design, the E-M10 features in-body image stabilisation and a high-quality EVF. The Micro Four Thirds mount gives compatibility with a wide range of lenses from Olympus and Panasonic.

Our verdict

OTHER than the aesthetic differences and a few additional features such as an electronic level and automatic eye sensor above the viewfinder, the Canon EOS 760D is very similar to the 750D. Both cameras share the same innards, and whether you pay the extra £50 for the 760D or not essentially comes down to whether you feel an LCD panel on the top-plate, a thumb wheel at the rear and a locking mode dial on top are necessities or not. Having used both cameras, the 760D is clearly the better choice for those who plan to take their photography seriously and aspire to be a better photographer, whereas the 750D's basic ergonomics suggest it's best for beginners who are just starting out and want a DSLR they feel at ease with straight away.

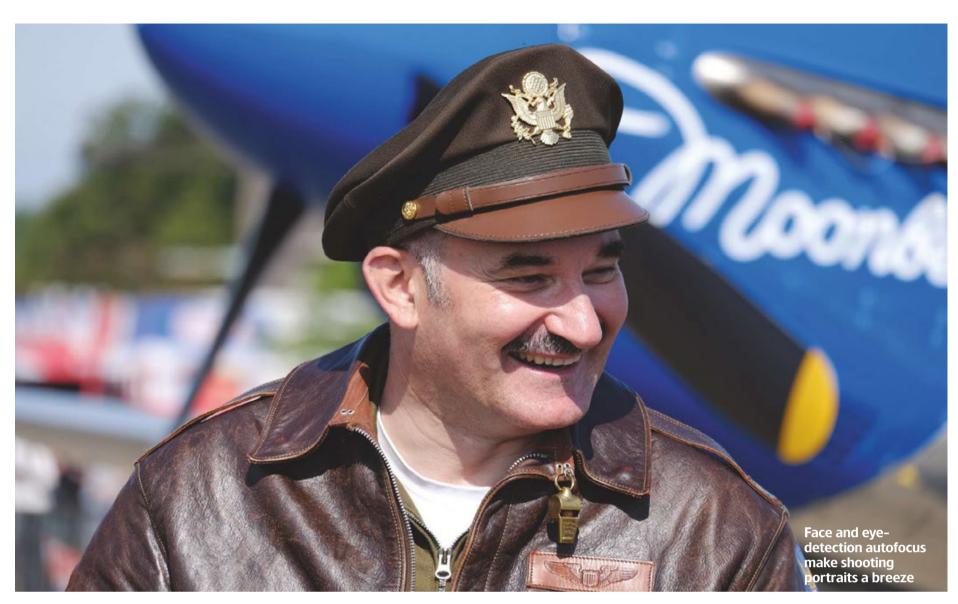
Canon's decision to fit an anti-aliasing filter means that it doesn't resolve quite the same super-fine level of detail as the Nikon D5500, but the images it does produce are well exposed, rich in colour and there are more than enough pixels to roll out an A2 print. The dynamic range performance has room for improvement, but anyone who shoots regularly in low light will appreciate that usable results can still be reached at ISO 6,400 with minimal post-processing work.

Autofocus in live view is faster and more responsive than the 700D and the touchscreen is great for pinpointing the AF point accurately in live view and working your way around the intuitive menu.

For aspiring enthusiasts, the 760D ticks all the right boxes and is a more than capable DSLR. Anyone sitting on the fence pondering whether to buy the 750D or 760D will want to consider the differences carefully, but if you know you have a passion for photography, the 760D is the DSLR that will ultimately serve you better in the long term. Canon has successfully created its best three-digit DSLR to date.



FEATURES	8/10
BUILD & HANDLING	8/10
METERING	8/10
AUTOFOCUS	9/10
AWB & COLOUR	8/10
DYNAMIC RANGE	7/10
IMAGE QUALITY	8/10
VIEWFINDER/LCD	8/10



At a glance

Fujifilm X-T1

- 16.3-million-pixel, APS-C X-Trans CMOS II sensor
- ISO 200-6,400 (raw), ISO 100-51,200 (JPEG)
- 8fps continuous shooting
- 2.36-million-dot OLED EVF
- 3in, 1.04-million-dot tilting LCD
- £880 body only

Firmware 4.0 new features

- Zone AF mode
- Wide tracking AF mode
- Eye-detection AF
- Auto macro mode
- Exposure compensation with auto ISO in manual mode

Fujifilm X-T1 firmware 4.0

Andy Westlake reassesses Fujifilm's popular CSC in the light of its latest firmware update

ack in the days of film, when you bought a camera you knew exactly what features you were getting. Digital cameras, in contrast, are miniature computers that take pictures, and this means they can be upgraded via firmware updates. Historically, these were used mainly to fix operational bugs, but in recent years Fujifilm has shaken

up the industry with its Japanese philosophy of 'kaizen', continuously improving its cameras with a slew of new features and refinements. With version 4.0 for its premium firmware 4.0 isn't the first update

mirrorless model, the X-T1, it has completely overhauled the camera's autofocus system, with a particular emphasis on shooting moving subjects.

As a reminder, the Fujifilm X-T1 was one of the standout cameras of last year. With a compact, rugged SLR-like design, it was roundly admired for its excellent image quality, intuitive operation and superb electronic viewfinder. Among its numerous plaudits were the Enthusiast Compact System Camera of the Year and the Reader Product of the Year at our 2015 AP awards.

As the numbering suggests,

for the X-T1. In fact, it's the fifth, but it's the second major update, after version 3.0, which brought no fewer than 27 improvements. The cumulative effect is that, on paper at least, the camera has changed significantly from when it was launched 18 months ago. So we thought it would be worth taking a look at what it can now do, compared to our original review last year (AP 15 March 2014). I took it to the Flying Legends air show at the Imperial War Museum near Duxford in Cambridgeshire, and put it through its paces.

It is perhaps worth noting that little in version 4.0 is completely novel, as we've seen most of its

new features in other manufacturers' cameras, in one form or another. However, Fujifilm has shown itself uniquely willing to listen to user feedback and update its cameras accordingly. So anyone who bought an X-T1 shortly after its launch will now find they have a substantially improved camera – but crucially, at no extra cost.

Zone and wide tracking focus modes

The main additions in firmware 4.0 revolve around autofocus. Two new modes have been added to help deal with moving subjects, namely zone and wide tracking, both of which employ a 77-point grid of focus areas covering almost the entire frame. In zone mode, you can specify a group of focus points – either 5x5, 5x3 or 3x3 – and position it freely within the frame. This is ideal for subjects moving predominantly towards or away from the camera.

In wide tracking mode the camera can use almost the entire area of the frame for focusing. You can set a specific point for the initial focus acquisition, but once the camera has locked on to the subject it will attempt to follow it around the frame. In principle, this should be a better choice for more



The zone AF mode does a good job of keeping fast-moving subjects in focus

erratically moving subjects.

In practice, things are a little more complicated. The X-T1's X-Trans CMOS II sensor has phase-detection elements in the central region of the sensor that allow for fast focusing, but if the subject is outside of this area the camera has to revert to the slower contrast-detection AF. This requires the sensor to be read between exposures, so is limited to working in the slower CL shooting mode, which has a maximum shooting rate of 3fps. The upshot of this is that if you want to shoot fast moving subjects, you'll need to

use zone mode and the 5x3 grid of PDAF-capable focus points in the centre of the frame.

I tried out zone mode shooting fast-moving planes, using the Fujinon XC 50-230mm f/4.5-6.7 telezoom, which is Fujifilm's longest X-mount lens. I found it worked well, keeping subjects moving quickly towards the camera in focus most of the time. The key advantage of zone mode is that it's no longer necessary to keep a single AF point over your subject, which is tricky at the best of times. It's worth noting that the shooting rate will often drop

significantly below the maximum 9fps, as the camera needs a fraction of a second to refocus between frames. It's also necessary to set the camera to use the mechanical shutter only (Shooting Menu 5>Shutter Type> – MS), otherwise it will shoot at full speed with focus fixed.

With tracking mode the results are a little more imprecise. It works well when the subject is easy for the camera to identify, for example, as a solid block of strong colour, and moves around the frame relatively slowly. But like similar modes on other brands, it can get laggy and confused when the subject moves too quickly, or is too small for the camera to easily distinguish from the rest of the image. It can certainly be useful, but it's far from foolproof.

So while firmware 4.0 brings useful advances, the X-T1 still has a way to go to catch up with the very best AF systems when it comes to moving subjects.

Notably, the phase-detection area covers a relatively small part of the frame compared to DSLRs like the Nikon D7100 or Canon EOS 7D Mark II, or premium CSCs like the Samsung NX1 or Sony Alpha 6000. I also found that the system was far too keen to



refocus when another object briefly came between the subject and the camera, and it took a few frames to reacquire focus afterwards. Most enthusiast DSLRs are a bit more intelligent in understanding such a scenario, and hold off from refocusing.

Eye-detection focus

Fujifilm was initially reluctant to include face detection on its X-series cameras, but has now thought better of it and added not just face detection, but eye detection too. The mode works for both frontal and profile portraits, and when enabled it outlines faces with a large green box and displays a smaller white box over the eye that will be prioritised for correct focus. It's fascinating to watch these boxes track your subject around the frame, and reassuring to know that the camera is (usually) doing just what you want.

Eye focus is especially useful with fast primes like the Fujinon XF 56mm f/1.2 and 90mm f/2 - you can simply let the camera get on with focusing and exposing correctly, wherever your subject is in the frame, and concentrate purely on composition and shooting. Crucially, it more or less guarantees correct focus with minimal user effort when shooting off-centre subjects at large apertures. In contrast, the phase-detection systems in DSLRs often give slight, but persistent focus errors under these conditions.

What else has changed in firmware 4.0?

While autofocus is the main theme of firmware 4.0, the X-T1 has



I used exposure compensation to retain shadow detail against bright skies

Anyone who bought an X-T1 will now find they have a substantially improved camera – but crucially, at no extra cost'

gained a few additional improvements. Perhaps most usefully, the camera now applies any exposure compensation you may have set when shooting in manual mode with auto ISO. This means that you can manually set the shutter speed and the aperture to suit the subject, and the camera will determine the necessary ISO, taking into account whether you want lighter or darker images than normal.

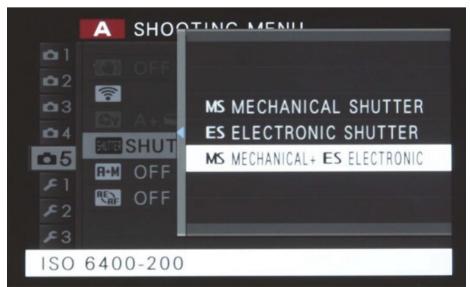
This may not be something you choose to do all the time, but in

some situations it's a useful way of working. For example, at the air show I selected a shutter speed of 1/800sec to keep my shots as sharp as possible while still showing some propeller blur, and an aperture of f/8 to get the best from the lens. I then set the exposure compensation to +1EV to compensate for the bright sky, leaving the camera to control the ISO automatically to adapt for fluctuating lighting conditions.

A couple of small operational improvements have been added, too. The full range of shutter speeds from 30-1/32,000sec can now be selected using the front electronic dial when the shutter speed dial is set to the T position. This is particularly welcome when shooting with large lenses in portrait format using the vertical grip, at which point the shutter-speed dial itself is well out of reach.

There's a new auto macro mode, which allows the camera to employ the full focus range of the lens, rather than having to enter a specific mode for close subjects. This essentially fixes a quirk of the Fujifilm system: macro mode is inherited from the original X-Pro1, which has to switch from the

Electronic shutter



The silent electronic shutter can be turned on in the X-T1's menu

AS THE headline addition in firmware version 3.0, Fujifilm introduced a fully electronic shutter option that brings two key benefits. First, it's completely silent, which is great for shooting in situations where the sound of the physical shutter would be intrusive. Second, it allows the use of exceptionally fast shutter speeds up to 1/32,000 sec, which allows shooting with ultra-fast primes such as the Fujinon XF 56mm f/1.2 wide open in bright light (normally you'd need an ND filter to avoid overexposure). The user can select between mechanical and electronic shutter in the menu, or allow the camera to choose between the two

automatically in MS+ES mode.

Silent mode has a couple of drawbacks, though. It is prone to rolling shutter artefacts, giving distortion of moving subjects, and fast-flickering fluorescent lights can produce horizontal banding that is near impossible to correct. It also comes with some odd incompatibilities – it disables the use of extended ISO sensitivities and prevents refocusing between frames during continuous shooting. As these apply even when the camera is using the mechanical shutter mode in MS+ES mode, it's best to turn on the electronic shutter only when needed. Luckily, the mechanical shutter is pretty quiet anyway.

optical to the electronic viewfinder for close subjects, but it's unnecessary on cameras like the X-T1 that only use electronic viewing. The addition of auto macro means there's one less function to assign to the camera's programmable buttons, and ensures that there's now essentially no drawback to using the D-pad to directly move the AF area around the frame.

Conclusion

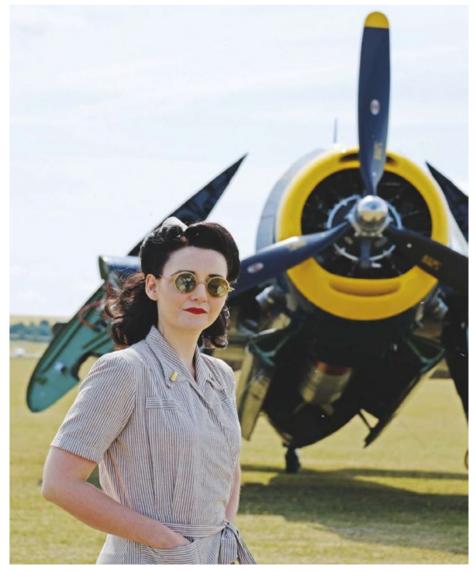
All the hype surrounding Fujifilm's firmware 4.0 update for the X-T1 has been to do with its overhauled focus system, and in practice it brings some useful updates that make the camera an even stronger contender in its class. Zone mode is very effective, particularly when using the central phase-detection region of the frame, and wide tracking can work well with cooperative subjects. But while this counts as a solid advance for Fujifilm, the wider phase-detection areas of competitors such as the Sony Alpha 6000 and Samsung NX1 means these

cameras still have the overall edge.

However, it's equally important not to overlook all the other useful improvements Fujifilm has made to the X-T1 over the past 18 months. Notably, firmware 3.0 added a silent electronic shutter with speeds up to 1/32,000sec, along with an array of handling improvements including additional control customisation and a user-configurable Q menu. The net effect has been to take a camera that was very impressive to start with, and improve it rather substantially.

No other manufacturer has shown quite the same commitment to supporting its cameras, and Fujifilm has to be praised for this. Of course, it's not purely altruistic – it builds up goodwill and a positive brand image, encouraging photographers to buy into the system. A couple of companies have started to follow Fujifilm's lead - most notably Samsung with major firmware updates for the NX1 – and hopefully we'll see more of this in the future. It can only be good for photographers.

To download and install **Fujifilm X-T1 firmware 4.0**, follow the instructions at **www.fujifilm.com/support/digital cameras/software/firmware/x/xt1/index.html**



The face-detection mode works well for both frontal and profile portraits

Focal points

Fujifilm's X-T1 is an enthusiast-oriented camera based around analogue control dials

Sensor

The 16.3-million-pixel APS-C sensor employs Fujifilm's unique X-Trans CMOS colour filter array.

Built-in Wi-Fi

This allows connection to a smartphone for image sharing and remote control of the camera.

Battery

The NP-W126 battery has sufficient stamina for 350 shots per charge, by CIPA standard tests.

Control dials

The top-plate hosts an array of analogue dials for shutter speed, exposure compensation, ISO, metering mode and drive mode.



Tilt screen

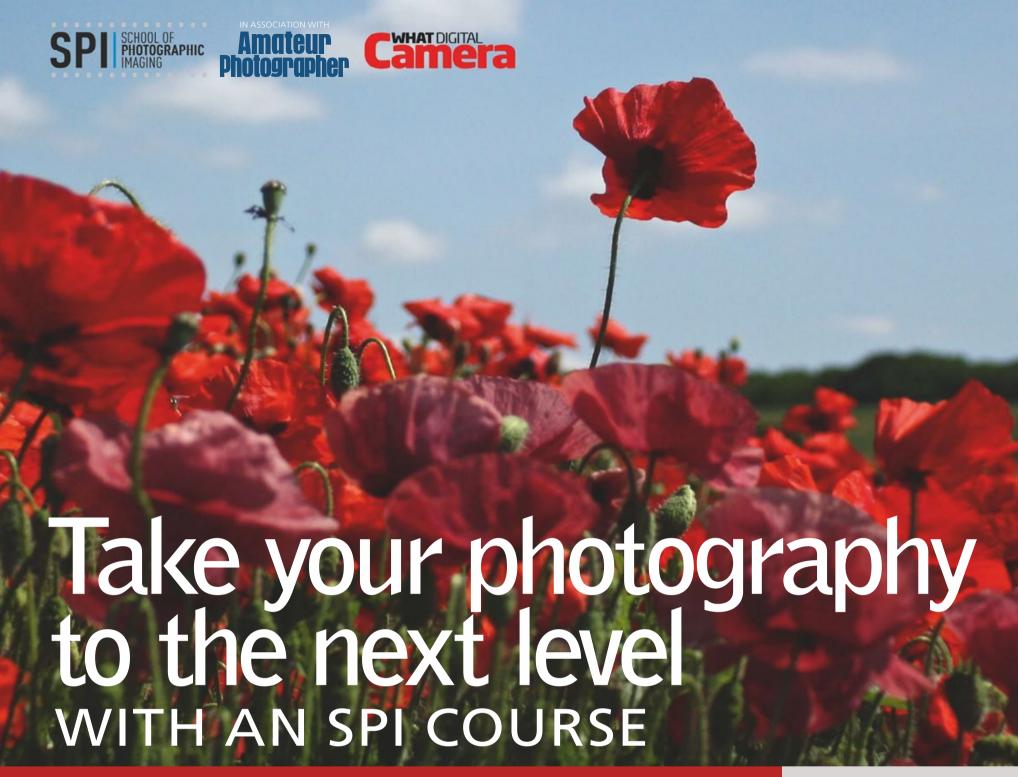
The 3in, 1.04-million-dot LCD tilts 90° upwards and 45° downwards.

Viewfinder

The 2.36-million-dot OLED EVF offers a huge 0.77x magnification and 100% coverage.



129mm



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The distance learning was very helpful to me as I cannot commit to regular days in the week. I enjoy the feedback, which is honest and fair but constructive.

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EXPERT ADVICETIPSTRICKSHACKSKNOW-HOW

Monochrom resolution

I have been a photographer on and off since childhood and still have my images of the winter of 1963 on my Kodak Box Brownie (too fuzzy to share), but I have a technical interest in the Leica M Monochrom camera since the new model is back in the news.

My question is, if a colour image is composed of four-dot pixels, why is the Monochrom not composed of one-dot pixels? You could have 96 megapixels using one dot, 48 megapixels using 2 dots in either vertical or horizontal mode, and the current 24 megapixels to choose from. In addition, this might allow the 96-megapixel mode to have a lower native ISO for exposure flexibility. Any ideas why not?

Simon Caswell

I'm afraid you might be getting mixed up between digital sensors and LCD displays here. The latter are composed of red,



The Leica M Monochrom's 24 million pixels have no colour sensitivity

green and blue dots, which together form a full-colour pixel, meaning that a 640x480 pixel display with 307,200 pixels will usually be made up of 921,600 dots split between red, green and blue. However, sensors don't quite work in the same way.

The 24-million-pixel colour sensor in the Leica M is

composed of red, green and blue pixels in a conventional Bayer pattern square grid. Because there are two greens for every red and blue, this means that it has 12 million green pixels, 6 million blue ones and 6 million red ones.

Each colour is then reconstructed at each pixel location to give a 24-million-

pixel full-colour image, but this isn't done using simply a group of four adjacent pixels. Instead, the signals from several surrounding pixels are used to interpolate the final colour values, giving a more accurate interpretation of the scene.

The M Monochrom removes the colour filter array, so now we have 24 million pixels, which are each sensitive to the full spectrum of visible light, and capture no colour information at all. No interpolation is therefore needed to make the image; instead, each pixel records directly the brightness value for its position in the frame.

The result is a sharper image with a finer noise pattern. But because no light is blocked by the colour filters, more reaches the sensor, and this means less light is needed to form the image. As a result, the camera's lowest sensitivity is increased to ISO 320.

Andy Westlake

Lens resurrection

I have a Yashica FX-D Quartz 35mm SLR, with Yashica ML Zoom 42-75mm f/ 3.5-4.5 and Carl Zeiss Jena 24mm f/2.8 lenses. The lens mounts are Contax/ Yashica large-diameter bayonet mounts. I've not used this camera for a number of years, but do you know if these lenses can be used on any of today's digital SLRs?

Gordon Millthorpe

None of today's digital SLRs will accept these lenses directly, but it should be possible to resurrect them using a mount adapter.

If you're set on getting a traditional SLR with an optical viewfinder, then you might be

able to use a Canon EOS camera. However, while it's possible to buy an adapter ring that would let you physically mount your lenses on the camera, you'd have to focus manually with the lens set wide open, stop the lens down manually for shooting, and then open the aperture up again for the next shot. This isn't impossible, but not entirely practical. Some lenses won't physically fit, particularly if they have protruding tabs at the back to protect the rear element.

By the way, while adapters are available for other mounts including Nikon and Pentax, they'll either not allow infinity focus, or include additional corrective glass that will slightly increase the focal length and reduce the image quality.

If you're prepared to consider an electronic viewfinder, then it's generally much easier to use adapted lenses on compact system cameras. You still have to focus and set the aperture manually. Not only is it easier to achieve accurate manual focus, but the viewfinders will also automatically adapt to maintain viewing brightness with the lens stopped down.

However, things become complicated by sensor size and price. Cameras that use APS-C sensors and have electronic viewfinders are reasonably affordable, especially secondhand. For example, Fujifilm X-E1 bodies in good condition cost £250-£450. But due to the 1.5x crop, your 24mm lens would behave more like a 35mm, and

your 42-75mm like a 65-110mm. This isn't a disaster, but may not be what you were hoping for.

The best option would be a Sony Alpha 7-series camera, as these are the only CSCs with full-frame sensors. Your lenses would behave just as they were designed to, with no field of view crop. But the catch is that the cameras are more expensive – the 24MP Alpha 7 currently costs around £800 body only.

The other question is how well your lenses might stand up to scrutiny on a modern high-resolution digital system? I suspect the 24mm would fare just fine, but the 42-75mm might not do so well, although its relatively unambitious range may count in its favour.

Andy Westlake



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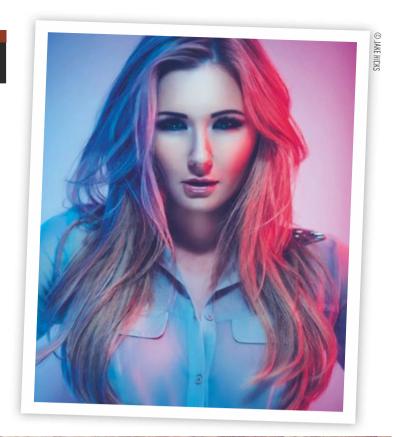


Technical Support

In the bag



Freelance
editorial
and fashion
photographer
Jake Hicks
shares his
kit list



Nikon D600

This isn't the flagship camera from Nikon by any means but its exceptional image quality, small size and minimal weight mean it is perfect when I'm handholding it all day on long shoots.

Nikon AF Nikkor 28-105mm f/3.5-4.5

I've had this lens for nearly as long as I've been shooting, and although I've acquired numerous other lenses along the way I keep coming back to this one. It's not the fastest lens out there, but its sharpness and sheer versatility of focal length mean it's still the lens I use most to cover any eventuality.

Lensbaby Composer Pro with Sweet 50 optic lens

Sometimes you just want to add a little interest to your shots and there haven't been many shoots in recent years that I haven't gone to Lensbaby for the solution. This Composer Pro adds a user-controlled blurred vignette to a shot and the results never fail to impress.

Mamiya Universal

Playing with old Polaroid film started out as a guilty pleasure, but it's now turned into a staple of all my shoots. This rangefinding monster will often create breathtaking 6x9 Polaroids thanks to its instant film back.



Sekonic L-408 light meter

Seen as a relic from a bygone era, this light meter is always in my bag. It's one of those tools you only miss when you don't have it, and a light meter is not only essential when I'm shooting film but great for double-checking everything is working as it should on more complex lighting set-ups.

List of kit Nikon D600, Nikon AF Nikkor 28-105mm f/3.5-4.5, Nikon AF-S Nikkor 50mm f/1.4G, Nikon AF-S Nikkor 85mm f/1.8G, Nikon AF Zoom-Nikkor 70-300mm f/4-5.6G, Lensbaby Composer Pro with Sweet 50 optic lens, Rocket air blower dust-removal tool, crab clamp, Sigma 17-35mm f/2.8-4 EX DG, ND and diffusion lens filters, Mamiya Universal medium-format instant film back camera, Mamiya Polaroid back holding 6x9 film, Mamiya 100mm f/3.5, infrared flash trigger, Sekonic L-408 light meter



BLAST FROM THE PAST

Voigtländer Bessa Rangefinder

Ivor Matanle recalls lusting after an 8-on-120 coupled rangefinder camera during the 1950s

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PRICE £21 approx (with 105mm f/3.5 Skopar), AP 29 March 1939

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THE RESOLUTION, pictorial quality and brightness of photographs shot with Voigtländer cameras excited me at exhibitions held by the camera club that I belonged to in my teenage years. I seriously wanted, but could not afford, the used Rangefinder Bessa like the one that I now own, and have been using, in my seventies. With its 105mm f/3.5 Skopar lens set in a Compur Rapid shutter that gives speeds up to 1/400 sec, it is a seriously good camera.

What's good Beautifully engineered, simple to load, and easy to open and close. Superb lens quality. Uses readily available 120 film.

What's bad The split-image coupled rangefinder uses a separate window to the viewfinder. Both are a little tricky to use with spectacles.



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Technical Support



Professor Newman on...

Consumer demand

Bob Newman explains how manufacturers need to be flexible when planning camera production

he new pair of Canon high-resolution cameras, the EOS 5DS and EOS 5DS R, are now available in shops, and for the first time the company will be able to judge the real consumer demand between the two variants.

The two cameras differ in their configuration of the anti-aliasing (AA) filter, the relationship between them being the same as that between the Nikon D800 and D800E. The 5DS has a conventional anti-aliasing filter, while the 5DS R has an AA filter configured in such a way that it has little or no effect. The reason for adopting this solution is that it simplifies production planning, as I discussed in my article *Alias Canon and Nikon* (AP 28 March).

In brief, modern sensors usually have the back element of the anti-aliasing filter acting as the cover glass on the sensor package, which produces economic and packaging benefits. The 'cancelled' AA filter allows a single type of sensor to serve both versions of the camera, which allows much more flexible production planning – otherwise two versions of what is the most expensive single component in the camera would need to be stocked.

This discussion is, however, more to do with market intelligence than technical issues. Flexible production planning is desirable because market information is not perfect, and when a manufacturer decides to make two versions of a product it has to plan for the different quantities of each. When Nikon introduced the D800 and D800E, it was expecting a much greater demand for the D800 (and it is the one I bought, since I really don't like aliasing artefacts) than for the D800E. As it turned out it got that decision wrong, and

demand for the 'E' model was significantly greater than for the D800. During the two-year product lifetime of the cameras, Nikon adjusted the relative quantities and ended up producing more D800E cameras – so much so, that when it produced the D810 it didn't bother with an AA filter version.

Canon, however, has followed the lead of the original Nikon release and produced a pair of cameras. Once again, its marketing intelligence has suggested that there should be a preponderance of the standard model. Presumably, it's using the logic that if a camera already has a 50MP sensor, asking for the additional resolution given by removing the AA filter is just having your cake and eating it.

So, has history repeated itself? It would appear so. Initial anecdotal reports seem to indicate buyers showing a preference for the 'R' version, which has been selling out as soon as it hits the shelves, while the standard camera stays on the shelves somewhat longer.

'When a manufacturer decides to make two versions of a product it has to plan for the different quantities of each'



Bob Newman is currently Professor of Computer Science at the University of Wolverhampton. He has been working with the design and development of high-technology equipment for 35 years and two of his products have won innovation awards. Bob is also a camera nut and a keen amateur photographer

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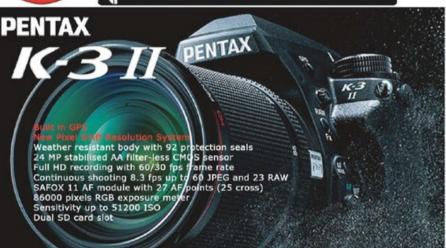
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Ext Tube 1, 2, 3S each£29	SONY LENSES USED
Teleplus 2x converter£49 Vivitar 2x converter£39	16-35 F2.8 ZASSM box £979 18-55 F3.5/5.6 SAM £39
MAMIYA TLR 6x6 USED	18-200 F3.5/6.3 DT£199
C330 F Body + WLF £149 55 F4.5£199	24-70 F2.8 ZE SSM£999 50 F1.8 DT£79
65 F3.5 box late£199	1.4x conv M- box£289
65 F3.5 serviced£149 80 F2.8 late serviced£139	SIGMA MIN/SONY AF USED 28-135 F3.8/5.6£79
180 F4.5£149	28-300 F3.5/6.3 mac£149
250 f4.5 late serviced £249	50 F1.4£149
250 f4.5 early serviced£179	50 F2.8 EX DG mac£149 55-200 F4/5.6£69
Prism£99	70 F2.8 DG Mac£199
Porroflex£49 Paramender£49	70-300 F4/5.6 DG OS £189 170-500 F5/6.3£379
MAMIYA 7 RF 6x7 USED	600 F8£299
50 F4.5 L + VF£699 150 F4.5 M£399	1.4x EX DG conv£149 TAM 18-250
210 F8 + VF box M £499	F3.5/6.3 Dili£179
Panoramic kit£49 MAMIYA RB 6x7 USED	TAM 60 F2.8 mac£239 TAM 70-200 F2.8 Di£499
Pro SD + 127 KL	TAM 70-300 F4/5.6 Di£89
+ RFH + WLF£549 Pro SD comp M£649	TAM 150-600 VC£799 Teleplus 1.4x conv£69
Pro S body£149	Teleplus 2x conv£79
Pro S body scruffy£99 WLF£79	Kenko 1.4x Pro 300DG£149 Min 3600HSD£39
120 645V back£99	Min 5400HS£69
90 F3.5 KL£249 127 F3.5 KL£299	Min 5600HSD M£99 Min 1200 Ringflash£49
180 F4.5 C£99	MINOLTA MD USED
250 F4.5 KL M- box£249 Ext tube 2£49	X700 body black£69 X300 body chrome£49
MAMIYA RZ 6x7 USED	X300S body black£49
RZ Pro body £149 RZ ProII + 90 + WLF	XGM body chrome£49 28 F3.5 MD£39
+ 120 RFH£499	28-70 F3.8/4.8 MD£39
120 RFH Pro II£99 120 RFH Pro I£49	35-70 F3.5 MD£49 35-135 F3.5/4.5 MD£49
Polaroid back£69	50 F1.7 MD£39
WLF£79 FE701 prism£179	70-210 F4 MD£79 75-200 F4.5 MD£45
AE prism early£79	70-300 F4.5/5.6 MD£69
Winder II£69 50 F4.5 W£199/299	TOK SL 400 F5.6 box £129 Minolta auto
65 F4 box M£399	bellows 1 + 100£149
90 F3.5 W M- box£299 127 F3.5 box£299	NIKON DIGITAL AF USED D4s body box£3499
180 F4.5 W box£199	D3s body£2399
360 F6£149 No 2 ext tube£49	D3X body box £1999/2199 D800E body
Pro shade£49	box£1199/1299
MINOLTA/SONY DIGITAL USED Sony A100 body£89	D800 body box£1399 D700 body box£649/799
Sony VGB30AM£79	D300s body£349/479
Sony VGC70AM£139 Sony HVLF56AM flash£189	D300 body box£249/299 D5100 body£249
Sony HX90X M- box£269	D5000 body£199
SONY NEX USED	D3200 body M£179
NEX 7 body box£349 NEX 5N + 18-55£239	D3100 body£149 D90 body£199
NEX 5 body£179	D80 body£129
MINOLTA/SONY AF USED Dynax 9 body£299	MBD-11£119 MBD-12 M- box£219
9000 body£79	MBD-80£49
800Si QD M£79 700Si + VC700£69	MBD-200£49 Coolpix P7800 box£249
700Si body£49	NIKON AF USED
7xi body£49 Dynax 5 body£39	F5 body£349 F4 body£349
505Si Super£25	F4S body scruffy£199
300Si or SPXi body ea£19 18-70 F3.5/5.6£69	F801 body£29/59 F601 body£29
20-35 F3.5/4.5 M- box£249	10.5 F2.8 ÉX Fisheye £399
24-50 F4£149 24-105 F3.5/4.5 AFD box£179	12-24 F4 DX£499 16-85 F3.5/5.6
28 F2.8£99	AFS VR£299
28-80 F4/5.6£39	17-55 F2.8 AFS DX £449



£2999	
28-85 F3.5/4.5£129	ī
28-100 F3.5/5.6 D£49	
35-70 F4£39 35-70 F3.5/4.5£25	'
35-70 F3.5/4.5£25 35-80 f4/5.6£25	
35-105 F3.5/4.5£99	
50 F1.4 AF£149	
50 F1.7£79 50 F2.8 macro£179	
75-300 F4.5/5.6£99	
35 F1.4 G box£599 100-300 F4.5/5.6 APO£169	
500 F8 mirror£349	
/C700 grip£49	-
/C9 grip£149 RC1000S/L cord£15	1
AW90£49	
MD90 + BP90-M£79	1
SONY LENSES USED 16-35 F2.8 ZASSM box £979	
18-55 F3.5/5.6 SAM£39	
18-200 F3.5/6.3 DT£199	
24-70 F2.8 ZE SSM£999	
50 F1.8 DT£79 1.4x conv M- box£289	
SIGMA MIN/SONY AF USED	
28-135 F3.8/5.6£79	
28-300 F3.5/6.3 mac£149 50 F1.4£149	
50 F1.4£149 50 F2.8 EX DG mac£149	
55-200 F4/5.6£69	
70 F2.8 DG Mac£199 70-300 F4/5.6 DG OS £189	.
170-500 F5/6.3£379	
500 F8£299	
I.4x EX DG conv£149 FAM 18-250	
3.5/6.3 Dili£179	'
TAM 60 F2.8 mac£239	
TAM 70-200 F2.8 Di £499 TAM 70-300 F4/5.6 Di£89	
TAM 150-600 VC£799	
Teleplus 1.4x conv£69	
Teleplus 2x conv£79 Kenko 1.4x Pro 300DG£149	
Min 3600HSD£39	
Min 5400HS£69	
Min 5600HSD M£99 Min 1200 Ringflash£49	
WINOLTA MD USED	
K700 body black£69	.
K300 body chrome£49 K300S body black£49	
KGM body chrome£49	
28 F3.5 MD£39	
28-70 F3.8/4.8 MD£39	
35-70 F3.5 MD£49 35-135 F3.5/4.5 MD£49	
50 F1.7 MD£39	
70-210 F4 MD£79	
75-200 F4.5 MD£45 70-300 F4.5/5.6 MD£69	
TOK SL 400 F5.6 box£129	'
Minolta auto	Ľ
oellows 1 + 100£149 NIKON DIGITAL AF USED	'
O4s body box£3499	
D3s body£2399	
D4s body box£3499 D3s body£2399 D3X body box £1999/2199 D800E body	.
oox£1199/1299	
0800 body box£1399	'
07/00 body box±649/799	
D700 body box£649/799 D300s body£349/479 D300 body box£249/299 D5100 body£249	
D5100 body£249	
D5000 body£199 D3200 body M£179 D3100 body£149	
D3100 body£149	
090 body£199 080 body£129	
USU body£129	
MBD-11£119 MBD-12 M- box£219	
MBD-80£49	
Onlpix P7800 box 6249	
MBD-200£49 Coolpix P7800 box£249 NIKON AF USED	
5 bodv£349	
4 body£349 4S body scruffy£199	
F801 body£29/59	
F801 body£29/59 F601 body£29 10.5 F2.8 FX Fisheve£399	



£2399	£3499
18-135 F3.5/5.6 AFS DX£149 18-200 F3.5/5.6 AFS	FM body blk EM body
VRII M- box£399	18 F4 Al
18-200 F3.5/5.6 AFS VRI£249 24 F1.4 AFS M- box£999/1099	24 F2 AIS 28 F3.5 AI
24 F2.8 AFD£299	28-85 F3.5/4.5 AIS.
24 F3.5 PC ED M£1149 24-50 f3.5/4.5 AF£129	35 F2.8 AI
24-70 F2.8 AFS box £999	35-105 F3.5/4.5 AIS 43-86 F3.5 AI
24-85 F3.5/4.5 AFG £199 24-120 F3.5/5.6 VR £299	45 F2.8 E silv M
35-70 F3.3/4.5 AF£49	50 F1.4 AIS 50 F1.8 AIS
35-80 F4/5.6 AFD£49 40 F2.8 AFS DX M- box.£149	50 F1.8 AIS pancak 50 F1.8 E
50 F1.4 AFS M- box£229	55 F3.5 Al
50 F1.4 AFD£179 50 F1.8 AFD box£79	85 F2 Al 135 F2 Al scruffy
70-200 F2.8 VRII£799	180 F2.8 AIS ED
70-200 F2.8 AFS VRI£749 80-200 F2.8 AFD N£599	180 F2.8 AIS ED scru 200 F4 AIS macro
80-200 F2.8 early £249	200 F4 AIS
80-400 F4.5/5.6 VR £599 105 F2.8 VR M £479	200 F4 AI 500 F8
105 F2.8 AFD M£399	TC14A
200 F2 AFS VRI£2399 200-400 F4 AFS	TC200 SC-17 TTL lead
VRII M- box£4299	SC-29 TTL lead
300 F2.8 AFS VRII Mint box£3499	DW-4 6x mag find f PK-13 ext tube
300 F2.8 AFS VRI£2799	PK-12 ext tube
300 F4 AFS M- box £749 TC17EII M- box £229	OLYMPUS DIGITAL E410 body
TC20E box£149	E400 body
Kenko MC7£69 SIGMA NAF USED	E300 body 11-22 F2.8/3.5 M
12-24 F4.5/5.6 MKII	12-60 F2.8/4 SWD.
EX DG HSM£489 12-24 F4.5/5.6 EX	14-42 F3.5/5.6 14-45 F3.5/5.6
DG HSM£399	14-50 F3.8/5.6
15 F2.8 EX£299 15-30 F3.5/4.5 EX DG£199	14-54 F2.8/3.5 35 F3.5
18-50 F2.8 EX DC Mac£199 18-200 F3.5/6.3 DC box£139	40-150 F3.5/4.5 40-150 F4/5.6
50 F1.4 DG Mint£199/239	50 F2 macro
50 F2.8 EX DG£139 50 F2.8 EX£119	70-300 F4/5.6 box 25mm ext tube
50-500 F4/6. DG OS £649	FL-36 flash
70-300 F4/5.6 macro DG£99	OLYMPUS PEN US OMD-EM1 body M- b
80-400 F4/5.6	OMD E-M5 body b
APO DG£399 120-400 F4/5.6 DG OS£499	Pen E-PL5 + 14-42 Pen E-PM1 + 14-42
170-500 F5/6.3 DG£349	Pen E-PM1 body
300 F2.8 EX DG£1299 1.4x EX DG M£139	Pen E-P3 body 12-40 F2.8 Pro box
1.4x EX conv£99 2x EX DG conv£159	17 F2.8 45 F1.8
TAMRON NAF USED	75-300 F4.8/6.7 II
17-35 F2.8/4£169 17-50 F2.8 XR Di£199	Pen VF2 viewfinder HLD-7 grip M
24-135 F3.5/5.6 box£119	OLYMPUS MF OM
70-300 F4/5.6 Di VC USD£239	OM-4 Ti body blk OM-1N body chr
90 F2.8 Di box£249/299 90 F2.8£199	OM-1 body chrome
150-600 F5/6.3 Di VC	OM-2SP body OM-2n body chrom
USD M£699 OTHER NAF USED	OM-2n body black. OM-2 chr body
TOK 11-16 F2.8 ATX Pro.£349	OM2000 body
TOK 12-28 F4 ATX DX box£399	OM30 body OM-10 body chron
TOK 16-50 F2.8	OM-40P body
ATX Pro£349 TOK 80-400 F4.5/5.6	24 F2.8 28 F2.8
ATX£249	28 F3.5
ZEISS 21 F2.8 ZFII M- box£999	28-48 F4 35-70 F3.5/4.5
FLASH / ACCESSORIES USED SB-24£49 SB-25£49	35-70 F4 35-105 F3.5/4.5
SB-28£69	50 F1.4
SB-80DX£79 SB-900£269	50 F1.8 50 F3.5 macro
SD-8 batt pack£49	135 F2.8
DR-6 angle finder£149 DR-3 angle finder£69	135 F3.5 180 F2.8
MB-16 M- box £89	300 F4.5 box
MB-23 (fits F4)£79 MC-30 remote£39	T32 flash Auto ext tube 14
MF-23 (date back F4) £79 NIKON MF USED	Man ext tube 7/25 PANASONIC DIGIT
F2 + DP-1 blk£199	G6 body
F3HP body£199 F3 body£149	G3 body GX1 body sil/blk bo
FE-2 body blk£249	GF2 body
FE-2 body chr£179 FM2n body chr£179	GF1 body silver 14 F2.5
FM2n bodý blk £199/299	14-42 F3.5/5.6



£3499	£2799
M body blk£79	14-45 F3.5/5.6£149
M body£29 8 F4 AI£299	25 F1.4 M- box£349 45 F2.8 mac M£449
4 F2 AIS£339	45-200 F4/5.6 box £199
8 F3.5 Al£99	100-300 F4/5.6 M- box £339
8-85 F3.5/4.5 AIS £199 5 F2.8 AI£99	BG-GH3 grip£149 FZ1000 M- box£499
5-105 F3.5/4.5 AIS£99	PENTAX DIGITAL AF USED
3-86 F3.5 Al£49	K20D body£199
5 F2.8 E silv M£269 0 F1.4 AIS£199	DBG2 grip£69 360AF FGZ flash£99
0 F1.8 AIS£89	PENTAX 35mm AF USED
0 F1.8 AIS pancake £139	16-50 F2.8£499
0 F1.8 E£59 5 F3.5 Al£89	17-70 F4 SDM M- box£349 18-55 F3.5/5.6£29
5 F2 Al£149	20-35 f4 box£269
35 F2 AI scruffy £299	28-70 F4 AL£59
80 F2.8 AIS ED£399 80 F2.8 AIS ED scruffy£199	28-80 F3.5/5.6£49 28-90 F3.5/5.6 FA£69
00 F4 AIS macro £279	35 F2.8 Limited£299
00 F4 AIS£149	35-70 F3.5/4.5£49
00 F4 Al£99 00 F8£299	40 F2.8 Limited M £249 43 F1.9 Limited M- box £319
C14A£129	50-135 F2.8 SDM
C200£49	M- box£499
C-17 TTL lead£25 C-29 TTL lead£39	55-300 F4/5.8 ED box £229 70 F2.8 Limited£349
W-4 6x mag find fit F3£99	70-200 F4/5.6£349
K-13 ext tube£29	70-300 F4/5.6£79
K-12 ext tube£29 LYMPUS DIGITAL USED	AF540 FGZ flash£239
410 body£99	SIGMA PKAF USED 10-20 F4/5.6 EX DC £239
400 body£99	12-24 F4/5.6
300 body£69	EX DG Mint£499
1-22 F2.8/3.5 M £449 2-60 F2.8/4 SWD £599	105 F2.8 EX DG M- box£329
4-42 F3.5/5.6£49	TAM 17-50 F2.8 XR Di£199
4-45 F3.5/5.6£89	PENTAX 35mm MF USED
4-50 F3.8/5.6 £199 4-54 F2.8/3.5£179	LX + prism£199/249 K1000 body chr£79
5 F3.5£99	MX body chrome£69
0-150 F3.5/4.5£49	P30T body£59
0-150 F4/5.6£49 0 F2 macro£349	P30N body£59 17 F4 Fisheye M£349
0-300 F4/5.6 box £219	20 F4 M£199
5mm ext tube£79	28-80 F3.5/4.5£49
L-36 flash£99 LYMPUS PEN USED	35-70 F2.8£149 45-125 F4/4.5£129
MD-EM1 body M- box£749	50 F1.7£49
MD E-M5 body box £379	50 F2£49
en E-PL5 + 14-42£POA en E-PM1 + 14-42 M-£149	50 F4 macro£79
en E-PM1 + 14-42 M-£149 en E-PM1 body£99	55 F1.8£49 75-150 F4£49
en E-P3 body£POA	80-200 F4.5£69
2-40 F2.8 Pro box £599	135 F3.5£49
7 F2.8£129 5 F1.8£149	Auto bellows K box£129 Ext tube set£69
5-300 F4.8/6.7 II £299	Rear converter A 2x£79
en VF2 viewfinder £129	Rear converter T62£69
LD-7 grip M£129 LYMPUS MF OM USED	FB1 + FC1 LX V/F£99 Angle finder K1000£49
M-4 Ti body blk £249	TOKINA 17 F3.5£89
M-1N body chr £129	PENTAX 645AF USED
M-1 body chrome £129 M-2SP body£99/239	645N body£399 120 insert£49
M-2n body chrome £169	PENTAX 645MF USED
M-2n body black £149	645 + 75 F2.8£249
M-2 chr body £129 M2000 body£99	645 body + insert £199 45-85 F4.5£299
M30 body£49	55 F2.8£249
M-10 body chrome£49	150 F3.5 EX++£149
M-40P body£49 4 F2.8£169	200 F4£149 2x converter£179
4 F2.8£169 8 F2.8£59	2x converter£179 120 Insert M- box£49
8 F3.5£34	PENTAX 67 USED
8-48 F4£99	45 F4£249
5-70 F3.5/4.5£79 5-70 F4£79	165 F4 leaf latest£249 200 F4 latest£169
5-105 F3.5/4.5£79	200 F4 early£99
0 F1.4£99	300 F4 early scruffy £99
0 F1.8£29 0 F3.5 macro£89	Pentax rear conv 1.4x£249 2x rear converter£179
35 F2.8£99	Auto ext tubes£49
35 F3.5£39	Vivitar 2x conv£49
80 F2.8£299 00 F4.5 box£199	STUDIO LIGHTING USED Bowens Esprit GM500
00 1 T.J DOX £ 199	POWCHS ESPIR GIVISON
32 flash£29	twin head kit£449
uto ext tube 14£29	twin head kit£449 Bowens Prolight 60
uto ext tube 14£29 lan ext tube 7/25 ea£15	twin head kit£449 Bowens Prolight 60 3 head kit£349
uto ext tube 14£29	twin head kit£449 Bowens Prolight 60
uto ext tube 14£29 lan ext tube 7/25 ea£15 ANASONIC DIGITAL USED 6 body£299 3 body£129	twin head kit£449 Bowens Prolight 60 3 head kit£349 Interfit Stellar 600 three head kit£249 Kenro Smart Light 300
uto ext tube 14£29 lan ext tube 7/25 ea£15 ANASONIC DIGITAL USED 6 body£29 3 body£129 X1 body sil/blk box.£149	twin head kit£449 Bowens Prolight 60 3 head kit£349 Interfit Stellar 600 three head kit£249 Kenro Smart Light 300 twin head kit£199
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uto ext tube 14	twin head kit£449 Bowens Prolight 60 3 head kit£349 Interfit Stellar 600 three head kit£249 Kenro Smart Light 300 twin head kit£199 TAMRON ADAPTALL USED 300 F2.8 box£499

Used Nikon 300mm f2.8 AFS VRI
£2799

)	25 E1 / M- hov £3/0
)	25 F1.4 M- box£349
′	45 F2.8 mac M£449
	45-200 F4/5.6 box £199
1	100-300 F4/5.6 M- box £339
)	BG-GH3 grip£149
)	FZ1000 M- box£499 PENTAX DIGITAL AF USED
)	PENTAX DIGITAL AF USED
)	K20D body£199
)	DBG2 grip£69
	360AF FGZ flash£99
,	PENTAX 35mm AF USED
Ś	16-50 F2.8£499
,	17-70 F4 SDM M- box£349
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,	18-55 F3.5/5.6£29
,	20-35 f4 box£269
)	28-70 F4 AL£59
9	28-80 F3.5/5.6£49
9	28-90 F3.5/5.6 FA£69
)	35 F2.8 Limited£299
9	35-70 F3.5/4.5£49
9	40 F2.8 Limited M£249
9	43 F1.9 Limited M- box£319
à	50-135 F2.8 SDM
,	M- box£499
	55-300 F4/5.8 ED box £229
,	
,	70 F2.8 Limited£349
,	70-200 F4/5.6£69
)	70-300 F4/5.6£79
)	AF540 FGZ flash£239
	SIGMA PKAF USED
•	10-20 F4/5.6 EX DC £239
)	12-24 F4/5.6
)	EX DG Mint£499
9	105 F2.8 EX
,	DG M- box £329
,	TAM 17-50 F2.8 XR Di£199
,	PENTAX 35mm MF USED
	LX + prism£199/249
,	
,	K1000 body chr£79
,	MX body chrome£69
,	P30T body£59
)	P30N body£59
)	17 F4 Fisheye M£349
•	20 F4 M£199
)	28-80 F3.5/4.5£49
)	35-70 F2.8£149
	45-125 F4/4.5£129
9	50 F1.7£49
•	50 F2£49
١.	50 F4 macro£79
9	55 F1.8£49
•	75-150 F4£49
(80-200 F4.5£69
9	135 F3.5£49
9	Auto bellows K box£129
9	Auto bellows K box£129
9	Auto bellows K box£129 Ext tube set£69
	Auto bellows K box£129 Ext tube set£69 Rear converter A 2x£79
9	Auto bellows K box £129 Ext tube set£69 Rear converter A 2x£79 Rear converter T62£69
	Auto bellows K box£129 Ext tube set£69 Rear converter A 2x£79 Rear converter T62£69 FB1 + FC1 LX V/F£99
9	Auto bellows K box£129 Ext tube set£69 Rear converter A 2x£79 Rear converter T62£69 FB1 + FC1 LX V/F£99 Angle finder K1000£49
9	Auto bellows K box£129 Ext tube set£69 Rear converter A 2x£79 Rear converter T62£69 FB1 + FC1 LX V/F£99 Angle finder K1000£49
9	Auto bellows K box £129 Ext tube set
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	Auto bellows K box £129 Ext tube set

R6.2 body chr box ... 28-70 F3.5/4.5

Angle finder R.

LIGHTMETERS USED

70-200 F4 (3 cam)......£249 250 F4 (3 cam)......£399

Minolta Autometer IVF.£149 Minolta Flashmeter V £199 Pentax Spotmeter V......£99 Polaris Flashmeter......£99

ROM box

...£449

..£149

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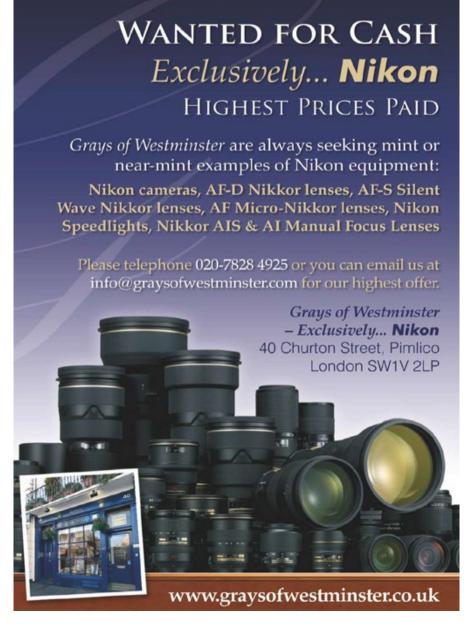


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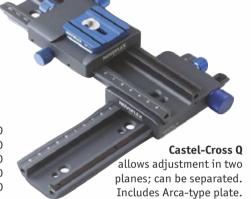


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No.300XL Colour 18ml
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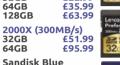


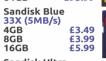


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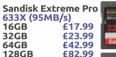
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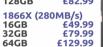














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We carry sizes from 24mm, up to 105mm, and offer Clear Protectors, UVs, Skylights, Circular Polarisers, ND4s, ND8s, ND16s, ND32s, ND64s, ND500s, ND1000s, Variable NDs, Starbursts, Close Up Sets and more! Below are just a few examples...

KOOD Slim UV Filters	Frame	Marumi DHO		Hoya HMC Slim Frame	
37mm	£4.99	Clear Protec		UV Filters	
40.5mm	£4.99	37mm	£10.99	37mm	£12.99
46.5111111	£4.99	43mm	£10.99	40.5mm	£12.99
46mm 49mm	£4.99	46mm	£10.99	46mm	£12.99
52mm	£4.99	49mm	£10.99	49mm	£11.99
	£5.99	52mm	£10.99	52mm	£11.99
55mm		55mm	£11.99	58mm	£14.99
58mm	£6.99 £7.99	58mm	£12.99	62mm	£16.99
62mm		62mm	£14.99	67mm	£18.99
67mm	£8.99	67mm	£15.99	72mm	£21.99
72mm		72mm	£17.99	77mm	£25.99
77mm	£11.99	77mm	£19.99	82mm	£29.99
82mm	£14.99	82mm	£22.99	02111111	123.33
86mm	£19.99			HOYA Pro-1D	Slim
KOOD Slim	Frame	Marumi DHC		Frame Multi-	coated
Circular Pol	arisers	Frame Multi	-coated	Clear Protect	OLS
37mm	£12.99	UV Filters		52mm SPECIAL	£16.99
40.5mm	£12.99	52mm	£13.99	58mm	£28.99
46mm	£12.99	58mm	£15.99	62mm	£31.99
49mm	£12.99	62mm	£17.99	67mm	£35.99
52mm	£14.99	67mm	£19.99	72mm	£39.99
55mm	£15.99	72mm	£21.99	77mm SPECIAL	£29.99
58mm	£17.99	77mm	£24.99	82mm	£49.99
62mm	£19.99				
67mm	£22.99	Marumi DHC		HOYA Pro-1D	
72mm	£26.99	Frame Multi		Frame Multi-	
77mm	£29.99	Circular Pola		Circular Pola	
82mm	£34.99	52mm	£31.99	52mm	£52.99
86mm	£39.99	58mm	£35.99	58mm	£60.99
		62mm	£39.99	62mm	£67.99
KOOD		67mm	£44.99	67mm	£75.99
ND4 & ND8		72mm	£49.99	72mm	£90.99
52mm	£26.99	77mm	£54.99	77mm SPECIAL	£79.99
58mm	£34.99	82mm	£69.99	82mm	E120.99

Square Filters

We stock three widths of square filters: A-type (67mm wide), P-Type (84mm wide) and Z-Type (100mm wide). Made in the UK, Kood square filters are optically flat, with excellent colour density, neutrality and stability. They received a maximum 5 star rating from Digital Camera Magazine.

P-Type: 84mm wide filt	ers	Z-Type: 100mm wide fil	ters
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Wide Angle Holder	£6.99	Adapter Rings 52-95mm	£8.99
Filter Wallet for 8 filters	£9.99	ND2 Solid	£16.99
Adapter Rings 49-82mm	£4.99	ND2 Soft Graduated	£17.99
Circular Polariser	£27.99	ND2 Hard Graduated	£17.99
ND2 Solid	£12.99	ND4 Solid	£16.99
ND2 Soft Graduated	£13.99	ND4 Soft Graduated	£17.99
ND2 Hard Graduated	£13.99	ND4 Hard Graduated	£17.99
ND4 Solid	£12.99	ND8 Solid	£18.99
ND4 Soft Graduated	£13.99	ND8 Soft Graduated	£19.99
ND4 Hard Graduated	£13.99	ND8 Hard Graduated	£19.99
ND8 Solid	£14.99	Light Blue Graduated	£17.99
ND8 Soft Graduated	£15.99	Dark Blue Graduated	£17.99
ND8 Hard Graduated	£15.99	Light Tobacco Graduated	
Light Blue Graduated	£12.99	Dark Tobacco Graduated	£17.99
Dark Blue Graduated	£12.99	Light Sunset Graduated	£18.99
Light Tobacco Graduated		Dark Sunset Graduated	£18.99
Dark Tobacco Graduated		A-Type: 67mm wide filt	ers
Light Sunset Graduated	£14.99	Standard Holder	£4.99
Dark Sunset Graduated	£14.99	Adapter Rings 37-62mm	£8.99
Starbursts x4, x6, x8	£17.99	ND2 Solid	£10.99
Red/Green/Yellow each		ND2 Graduated	£11.99
Six-piece ND Filter Kit		ND4 Solid	£10.99
A popular kit containing an N Soft Grad, ND4, ND4 Soft Gra		ND4 Graduated	£11.99
Holder, plus Adapter Ring of		ND8 Solid	£11.99
choice (49-82mm).	you	ND8 Graduated	£12.99
, ,			

Lens Accessories

ECIIS ACCESSOI	103	
Bayonet-Fit Lens Hoods	Screw-Fit Lens Hoods	
ES-62 Canon 50/1.8 £9.99	37mm Rubber Hood	£3.99
ES-71II Canon 50/1.4 £9.99	40.5mm Rubber Hood	£3.99
ET-60 Canon 75-300/4-5.6 £9.99	43mm Metal Hood	£5.99
ET-65B Canon 70-300/4-5.6 £9.99	46mm Rubber Hood	£3.99
ET-67 Canon 100/2.8 Macro £9.99	46mm Metal Hood	£5.99
ET-67B Canon 60/2.8 £9.99	49mm Rubber Hood	£3.99
EW-60C Canon 18-55 IS £7.99	49mm Shaped Petal Hood	£6.99
EW-63C Canon 18-55 IS STM £9.99	52mm Rubber Hood	£3.99
EW-73B Canon 18-55 IS £9.99	52mm Shaped Petal Hood	£6.99
EW-78BII Canon 28-135 IS £9.99	55mm Rubber Hood	£3.99
EW-78D Canon 18-200 IS £9.99	55mm Shaped Petal Hood	£6.99
EW-78E Canon 15-85 IS £12.99	58mm Rubber Hood	£3.99
EW-83E Canon 17-40/4.0 £12.99	58mm Shaped Petal Hood	£6.99
HB-32 Nikon 18-105 VR £7.99	62mm Rubber Hood	£4.99
HB-45 Nikon 18-55 VR £7.99	62mm Shaped Petal Hood	£7.99
Stepping Rings	67mm Rubber Hood	£4.99
25mm to 105mm	67mm Shaped Petal Hood	£7.99
160 different sizes £4.99-5.99	72mm Rubber Hood	£5.99
Barrage to a Bitarrage	72mm Shaped Petal Hood	£9.99
Reversing Rings	77mm Rubber Hood	£5.99
52mm to 77mm Canon, Nikon, Sony, Olympus	77mm Shaped Petal Hood	£9.99
and Pentax £9.99-19.99	·	
	Lens Caps	
Coupling Rings	Lens Caps Centre-Pinch	£2.99
49mm-77mm £9.99-£11.99	Body & Rear Lens Caps	£3.99

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	Pro Shade EE+ £25				
	Rotary Finder EE++ £79		Fuji Finepix X100s SilverE+ £479		
	Speed Grip EE+ £25				
18mm F2 XF RMint- / Unused £199 - £239		Sigma 600mm F8 Reflex E+ / E++ £99 - £179	Fuji X-E2 Black Body OnlyMint- £369	E++ £339 - £349	160mm F4.8 CBE++ / Mint- £349 - £399
		Tamron 10-24mm F3.5-4.5 Di II LD AsphE++ £279	Fuji X-Pro1 BodyE++ £299	Olympus E620 + 14-45mm + 40-150mm E+ £289	
	EOS 1V + E2 BoosterE++ £399 EOS 3 + E2 BoosterE+ £149	, , ,	Nikon J1 Black + 10mmUnused £179 Olympus E-P1 Body OnlyE++ £79		250mm F5.6 CFE+ £299 250mm F5.6 CF Super AchromatE+ £1.999
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4/3rds Lenses	,,		Olympus E-P3 + 14-42mm Black E+ £199	,,	
Olympus 7-14mm F4 ED ZuikoE++ £749 Olympus 9-18mm F4-5.6 ED Zuiko			Olympus E-P3 Body Only - BlackE+ £149 Olympus E-P3 Body Only - SilverE+ £149	,	500mm F8 C BlackE+ £450 - £499 1.4x E ConverterE+ / E++ £249 - £399
	EOS RT Body Only		Olympus E-PL1 Black + 14-42E++ £109	,	
Olympus 11-22mm F2.8-3.5 Zuiko			Olympus E-PL2 Black Body OnlyEx Demo £139		2xE ConverterE++ £249
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150mm F3.5 EAs Seen / E+ £39 - £109					
200mm F4.5 EE+ / Unused £119 - £219 200mm F5.6 EE++ £129					
250mm F5.6 E As Seen / E++ £79 - £159	Sigma 50mm F2.8 EX DG MacroE++ £159	28mm F2.8 G - BlackE++ £299	Nikon D610 Body OnlyE++ £929	50mm F2.8 FE+ £349 - £389	21mm F2.8 M Black E+ / E++ £989 - £1,199
500mm F8 EE+ £359	Sigma 50-500mm F4-6.3 Apo DG HSM Exc £399	90mm F2.8 GE++ £199 - £229	Nikon D600 Body OnlyE+ / Mint- £679 - £779	50mm F2.8 FE E+ £649	21mm F3.4 R + 122228 M Mount Mint- £799
2x Converter E E+ £59					
120 E Mag E+ £20 - £39	Sigma 70-210mm F2.8 ApoE+ £179 Sigma 70-300mm F4-5.6 Apo MacroE++ £55 - £79	Goldpfeil Leather Holdall	Nikon D200 Body Only E+ / E++ £209 - £2/9	50mm F4 CF FLE F+ £549 - £649	24mm F2.8 Asph M Black 6bit
135N Ei MagE++ £59	Sigma 100-300mm F4 Apo EX HSM E+ £299	TLA140 Flash As Seen / Mint- £20 - £59	Nikon D90 Body OnlyE+ £179	50mm F4 Cfi FLE E+ £649	E++ / Mint £1,489 - £1,599
220 E MagE+ £15	Sigma 105mm F2.8 Macro EX DG OS HSME++ £329	TLA200 FlashE++ £75	Nikon D80 Body Only E++ £139 - £149	60mm F3.5 CFE+ £299	28/35/50 F4 Tri ElmarE++ £2,399 - £2,889
Polaroid Mag E E+ / E++ £25 - £59	Sigma 125 400mm F4.5 F 6 App DC	Digital Mirrorless	Nikon D70 Body Only E+ £79 Nikon D50 Body Only F++ £79	120mm F4.8 FE E+ / E++ £599	28mm F2 Asph M Black 6hit F± €1,399
Autobellows E. F_ £100					LT 41,/43
Autobellows EE+ £109 Extension Tube E14E+ / Unused £39 - £89	Sigma 170-500mm F5-6.3 ApoE+ £179 - £299	Fuji Finepix X10 + Leather CaseE++ £189	Nikon D7100 Body OnlyE++ £549	135mm F5.6 S MacroE+ £249	28mm F2.8 M Black E+ / E++ £749 - £799

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See up to 3 images of each used item on website Website updates used equipment list 10-15 times daily All items come with 6 month warranty - (unless stated) Our knowledgeable staff are on hand and ready to help



Our knowled	geable statt are
35mm F1.4 Asph M Black E+ / E++ £1,749 - £2,149	70-350mm F4.5 E+ £169
35mm F1.4 Asph M Black 6bit	75-200mm F4.5 R 3cam E+ / E++ £99 - £149
E+ / Mint- £1,749 - £2,899	80mm F1.4 R 3camE+ £1,599
35mm F1.4 Black Exc £1,149	80-200mm F4.5 R 3camE+ £189 - £199
35mm F2 Asph M Black 6bit	105-280mm F4.2 Vario ROM E+ £2,499
35mm F2 Asph M Chrome E+ / Mint- £1,299 - £1,450	135mm F2.8 R 2camE++ £199 135mm F2.8 R 3camE+ £169 - £249
35mm F2.5 M Black 6bit + Hood Mint- £949 50mm F0.95 Asph M - Black Mint- £6,499	180mm F2.8 R 3camExc / E++ £299 - £499
50mm F0.95 Asph M 6bit - Black	180mm F3.4 Apo R 3camE+ £699
E+ / Mint- £5,989 - £5,999	180mm F4 R 3camE+ £299
50mm F1.0 M Black 6bit Mint- £3,999	250mm F4 R 3camE++ £299
50mm F1.4 Asph M BlackE++ £1,799	Canon 400mm F2.8 FD LE+ £999
50mm F1.4 Asph M Chrome 6bitE++ £1,889	1.4x Apo Extender R E++ £299 - £349
50mm F2 Black	2x Extender R Exc / Mint- £49 - £129
50mm F2 CollapsibleAs Seen / E+ £299 - £389 50mm F2.8 ElmarE++ £299 - £349	Angle Finder R E+ / E++ £39 - £99 Angle Finder R (14300) E++ £59 - £125
50mm F2.8 M Chrome 6bitE++ £649	Bellows R + 100mm F4 RAs Seen / E++ £199
50mm F3.5 ChromeE+ £229	Bellows Unit R E+ £89
65mm F3.5 Elmar E+ / E++ £245 - £299	Macro Adapter RE++ / Mint- £69 - £125
75mm F2.5 Black 6 BITMint £999	Motordrive Set R8/R9E+ £249
90mm F2 Apo M Black 6bit	Motorwinder R8/R9 E+ / E++ £129 - £249
90mm F2 BlackE++ £649 90mm F2 ChromeE++ £650	R8/R9 Remote controlE++ £99
90mm F2 M ChromeE++ £989 - £999	Nikon AF
90mm F2.5 Black 6 BIT + HoodMint- £949	F6 Body + MB40 GripE++ £789
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90mm F2.8 M Black E+ £789	F5 Body + DA-30 Action FinderE+ £349
90mm F4 CollapsibleE++ £299	F5 Body OnlyAs Seen / E+ £149 - £299
90mm F4 ElmarExc / E+ £195 - £199	F4E Body OnlyE+ £179
90mm F4 Elmar E39E+ £199 - £249	F4 Body OnlyE+ £149
135mm F2.8 Black E+ / E++ £299 - £349 135mm F2.8 M Black E++ £389	F100 Body + MB15 GripE++ £179 F90X + MF26 BackAs Seen £29
135mm F4 BlackE++ £369	F90 Body Only
135mm F4 ChromeE+ £249	10.5mm F2.8 G AF ED DX Fisheye Mint- £369
135mm F4 M BlackE++ £799	12-24mm F4 G AFS DX EDE++ £369 - £389
135mm F4.5 HektorAs Seen £69 - £99	16-35mm F4 G AFS ED VRE++ £659
18mm Chrome Viewfinder E++ £379 - £399	16-85mm F3.5-5.6 G ED VR AFS DX
21/24/28mm Viewfinder - BlackE++ £249	E++ / Mint- £299 - £329
21mm Black ViewfinderE++ £199	17-55mm F2.8 G AFS DX IFED E+ / Mint- £449 - £549
24mm Black Viewfinder E++ £179 - £199 Angle Finder ME++ £149	18mm F2.8 AFDE++ £649 18-55mm F3.5-5.6 AFSE++ £59
Bellows II E+ £85	18-55mm F3.5-5.6 G AFS VRE++ £79
Large B&S Head Exc / E+ £35 - £45	18-55mm F3.5-5.6 G AFS VR II Mint- £89
Macro Adapter ME++ £269	18-70mm F3.5-4.5 G AFS ED DX. E+ / E++ £89 - £109
Motor M E++ £199 - £249	18-200mm F3.5-5.6 G AFS DX VRIIE++ £319
	20mm F2.8 AFD E+ / E++ £279 - £349
Leica R Series R9 Anthracite Body OnlyE+ £699	20-35mm F2.8 AFD Exc / E+ £299 - £449 24mm F1.4 G AFS ED Mint- £1,099
R9 Black Body OnlyE++ £649 - £749	24mm F2.8 AFDE++ £249
R8 Black Body Only E++ £299 - £349	24-70mm F2.8 G AFS ED
R8 Chrome Body Only E+ / E++ £229 - £349	24-85mm F3.5-4.5 G ED VRE++ £319
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R7 Black Body OnlyE+ £299	28-70mm F2.8 AFS E+ £549
R7 Chrome Body OnlyE+ / E++ £299 - £349	28-85mm F3.5-4.5 AFE+ £69
R6.2 Black Body OnlyE+ / E++ £449	28-300mm F3.5-5.6 G ED AFS VR
R6.2 Chrome Body OnlyE++ £449	35mm F1.8 G AFS DXE++ £109
R6 Black Body OnlyE+ £289 - £349 R6 Chrome Body OnlyE++ £299	35mm F2 AFDE++ £189 - £199
R5 Black Body Only E+ / E++ £199 - £299	50mm F1.4 AFNE++ £129
R5 Chrome Body OnlyE++ £349	50MM F1.4 G AFSE++ £199 - £219
RE Black Body OnlyE+ £179 - £219	50mm F1.8 G AFS (Retro) Mint- £169
R4S Model 2 Black Body OnlyE+ £119	60mm F2.8 AF MicroE+ £219
R4 Black Body Only E+ / E++ £99 - £159	60mm F2.8 AFD MicroE++ £249
R3 Black Body Only E+ / E++ £129 - £159	70-200mm F2.8 G AFS ED VRMint- £779
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Sigma 30mm F1.4 EX DC HSM	F++ £159
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Zeiss 18mm F3.5 ZF.2	E++ £749B++ £799B++ £499E++ £599New £799E++ £749
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Zeiss 18mm F3.5 ZF.2 Zeiss 21mm F2.8 ZF. Zeiss 21mm F2.8 ZF. Zeiss 25mm F2.8 ZF. Zeiss 25mm F2.8 ZF. Zeiss 35mm F2 ZF2. Zeiss 85mm F1.4 ZF. Zeiss 85m	E++ £749
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Dust problems on your sens



Unless you can see where you need to clean, it is very difficult to know how to proceed. Whatever camera you own, Visible Dust have a sensor viewing system that is perfect for your needs. Swablight, MiniQuazar and Quazar sensorscopes should be your start point.

vab Light From..... ini Quazar 7x from

Dust on your sensor can often be removed quickly and simply by using our Zeeion blower. You are certain that dust free air is blown at your sensor because Zeeion is made from static free Silicon RX material, and has a one-way valve at the front, and a dust filter at the rear intake.

For more stubborn problems..

For dust that is harder to dislodge, Visible Dust have a choice of brushes in the Arctic Butterfly range that have specific design qualities guaranteed to make light work of the task. Arctic Butterfly models rotate at high speed to achieve dust removal, and the Super Bright model has a built-in light to guide you. You can also attach our HDF Sensor Brush to Arctic

Butterfly for a really high density fibre option, designed to remove excessively dusty deposits.

ctic Butterfly (SL707) From

You mav need to swab vour sensor

If you have a stubborn stain on your sensor that won't go away, then Smear Away™ is your answer. Specially formulated to protect your sensor as it cleans away oil and lubricant, Smear Away™ also provides an anti-static barrier to reduce further contamination. It is recommended to use Smear Away™ with VisibleDust MXD-100 (green) Sensor Swabs. (For full details of other wet cleaning options from Visible Dust, please see our website).

A new product for use with Visible Dust wet cleaning systems is the Arctic Beez™ pulsating device (patent pending), with a frequency of 13000 rpm and a unique

buzzing sound similar to that of bees. This vibration is carried to the swab which is placed inside the

device cavity, and uses soft sonic vibration to loosen dirt and stain on the sensor. It works 4X more efficiently than when the swab is used alone.

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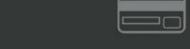


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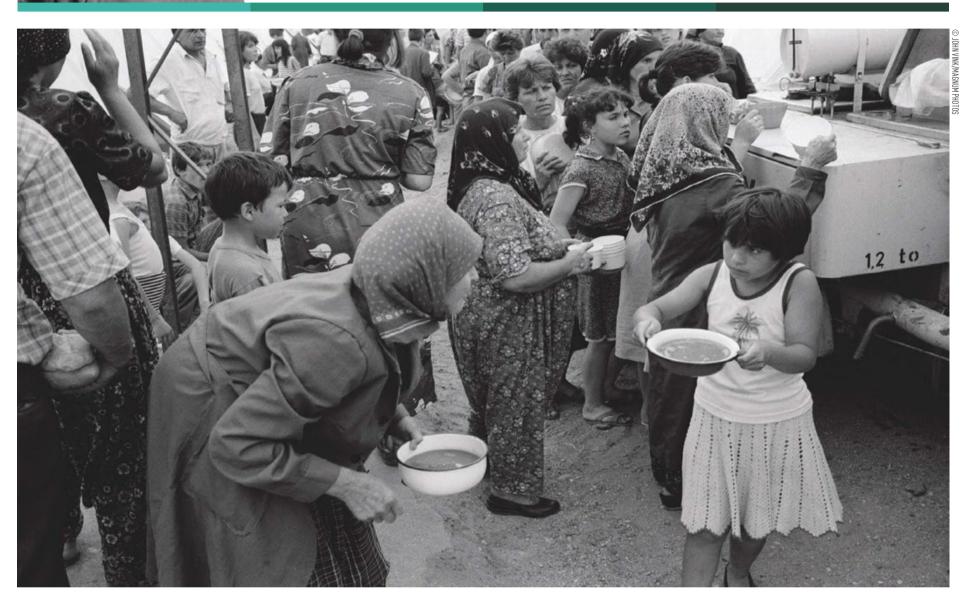
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Roger Hicks considers... Bulgarian refugees, Edirne, Turkey, 1989, by John Vink



ou have 24 hours to pack up all your belongings. After that you will be expelled from your country. Friends, or at least friends of friends, have been shot for resistance: for refusing to change their names; for continuing to speak the language of their ancestors, the language you share with them. In 1989 alone, more than 300,000 people take the hint and flee the country voluntarily. They become refugees: Bulgarians of Turkish origin, in refugee camps in Turkey. In due course, after the fall of Todor Zhivkov, more than half of them will return.

Photographing refugees is heartrending. I know. I've done it. You want to help them personally. You can't. There are simply too many of them, and there's only one of you. No one knows exactly how many refugees there are in the world, but the best estimates are in the low tens of millions.

As a photographer, you can at least try to make people aware of their plight. Even then, you can only do a little, for one group at a time. I've only ever photographed Tibetans, but as well as these Bulgarians, Vink has photographed Afghan, Khmer and Kurdish refugees. His photography is concerned with roots, with belonging, with identity.

The trouble is, photographing refugees is both too difficult and too easy. The first difficulties are logistical: funding the trip, getting the visas and permissions. Once you are there, it's also all too easy to fall into 'poverty tourism', the quaint, the picturesque, the clichéd. Then there's another difficulty. Refugees are distressingly human. They refuse to be objectified, classified, observed from the outside. Instead, they invite you in for food, share jokes, show off their children.

They're just like the rest of us, except that they have almost nothing.

That's what is so clever about this image: the mixture of the familiar and the unfamiliar. The little girl's pose, the expression on her face, the woman stooping down to her level: all this is universal. But then there's the crowding of the picture, the people apparently queuing for something - probably food - and the chaos. From a camera club point of view it's a disaster: the little girl's chopped-off feet, people's backs, tones blurring into one another, the two figures on the left that are so hard to read. And yet it works, precisely because it captures that chaos and the way in which people create (or re-create) the familiar in the context of disaster. The picture could easily be a failure. Quite possibly the picture before and the picture after were failures. But this one isn't.

Roger Hicks has been writing about photography since 1981 and has published more than three dozen books on the subject, many in partnership with his wife Frances Schultz (visit his website at **www.rogerandfrances.com**). Every week in this column Roger deconstructs a classic or contemporary photograph. **Next week he considers an image by Alex Webb**





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Welcome



Nearly every digital camera now comes with the obligatory red button that activates its video mode, but how many

of us actually get around to pressing it? Unlike stills photography, video can be daunting. There is a whole new set of rules, techniques to practise and editing software to get your head around. Plus, there is another dilemma: what to shoot?

Thankfully, photographers aren't starting from scratch. Many of the same principles apply to stills and video, particularly framing, exposure, composition and lighting. You can start with just the basics and introduce new techniques as you go. And as for what to shoot, well, there is plenty to choose from. If you are stuck for ideas, just turn on your TV. Wildlife documentaries are a great place to start. Watch how landscapes are shot, or how timelapse videos are used. Then think about how you can use these types of shots in your own

environment. You can even make your holiday videos more interesting so your family and friends actually want to sit down and watch them.

This supplement aims to give you some of the basic information you need to get out and start using the video mode on the camera. And if you feel inspired, why not check out The Video Mode (www.thevideomode. com), the new website from the makers of Amateur Photographer and What Digital Camera, in association with Canon. The site offers advice on shooting video, from the information you need to know when starting out. to more advanced questions on shooting raw video footage. Plus, we will be offering insights and techniques from leading videographers, as well as camera and equipment reviews. Basically, there's everything you need to get started recording video with your digital camera. So read this supplement and then pay The Video Mode a visit.

Richard Sibley, supplement editor



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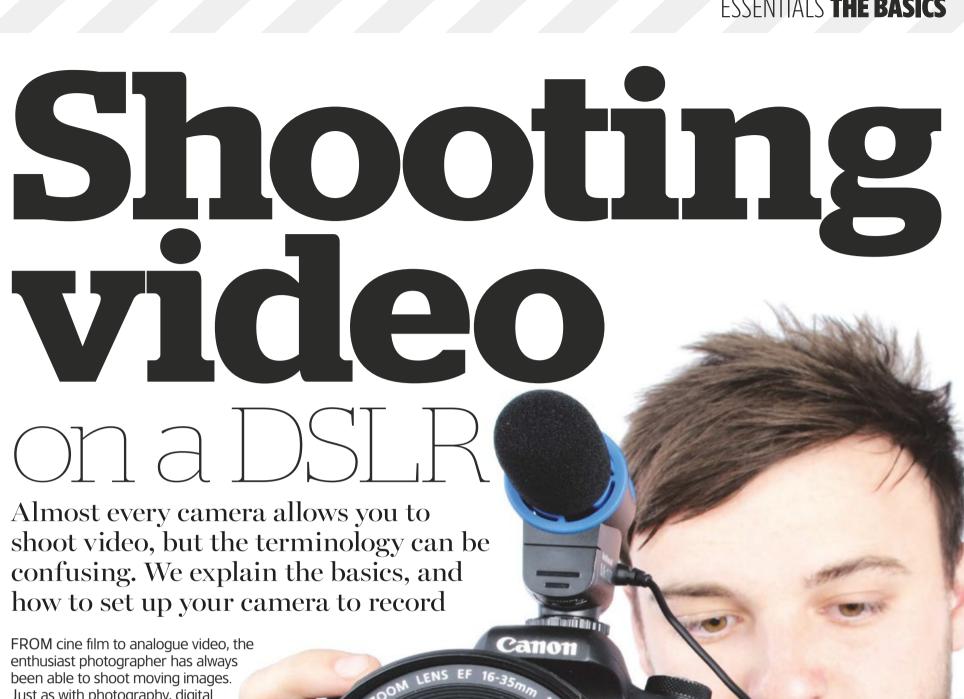
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Just as with photography, digital technology has changed the way enthusiasts can shoot video. Almost every digital stills camera is now capable of shooting video, and many of these cameras can produce footage that is of broadcast quality. Computers have also had an impact, as editing software that was once the preserve of the professional can now be found on the most basic computer, or even a smartphone. On top of that, the internet, and websites like YouTube, allow us to share our

Yet videography can be a daunting place. There's a new range of formats to use and acronyms to understand, as well as composition and exposure rules to learn. To help you get to grips with shooting video, or even just to refresh your knowledge if you're more experienced, we'll start with the basics.

video creations with the world.

Resolution

As technology has advanced, our ability to record and display video at higher and higher resolutions has increased. Until a few years ago, a lot of video was recorded at VGA resolution, or at

www.thevideomode.com | Master video with your DSLR



PAL, NTSC and frame rates

PAL AND NTSC are different video standards that are primarily used for analogue television broadcast, but are still relevant when shooting video. The UK, and most of the world, uses PAL, whereas the USA uses NTSC. If you're in the UK you should always set your video system to PAL, to make sure that you can play back via the camera output to a TV.

Although in these days of HD digital the choice between PAL and NTSC is less important, the one thing you still need to consider is the frame rate. The NTSC standard uses 30fps, while PAL uses 25fps. If PAL footage is shown on an NTSC standard screen, five extra frames must be added, otherwise footage will seem too fast. On the other hand, five frames must be dropped from NTSC footage when shown on a PAL screen otherwise it will seem too slow. If you plan to broadcast your video, or record it to a DVD or Blu-ray, you should make sure that it is recorded at an appropriate frame rate, and resolution, for the output medium.

On the internet things are a little different. It's possible to upload and play back footage at any number of different frame rates. However, 24, 25 and 30fps are the most common speeds, and online video players mostly support these. However, it's worth noting that some sites may recompress the video, causing a drop in frame rate or a loss in quality.





640x480 pixels. For comparison, broadcast quality NTSC SD resolution is recorded at 720x480 pixels, while PAL SD resolution is at 720x576. The introduction of high-definition television brought us 1280x720 and 1920x1080 pixels.

4K video is now becoming more common, despite the fact that most people don't have a TV or monitor that's able to display the footage. There

720x480 (DVD) 1280x720 1920x1080 (Full High Definition)

3840x2160 (4x1080p 4K)

are a few variants in 4K resolution, but it's generally recorded at 4096x2160 pixels – meaning that a still frame from a 4K video is around 8 million pixels in size. Believe it or not, 8K is expected to arrive by the end of the decade, at an incredible 7680x4320 pixels or 33.2 million pixels for a still frame.

So which resolution should you choose? Generally, you should always chose the highest resolution you can – even if you're only uploading your

Above left: Set your camera to record video at 1920x1080 pixels at a rate of 25fps

Above: As this illustration shows, the difference in resolution from high definition to 4K is a big increase

footage to YouTube or a similar site. If you watch 640x480 footage from 10 years ago on a 50in high-definition screen today, it will look very low quality. Try to shoot in 4K, because even if you don't fully appreciate it now, you probably will in the very near future.

Video files and formats

First, you'll need to get to grips with the various kinds of video formats available. This is a dazzling world of names and acronyms like AVCHD, H.264, MPEG-4 AVC, QuickTime, AVI, MP4, Pro Res and X AVC. However, once you know how video files work, it's actually fairly straightforward and there are really only a few you need to concern yourself with when starting out.

A video file is made of two parts: a container (or wrapper) and a codec (or compressor). The most basic way of understanding how they work is to think of the container as a library or filing



system. It contains all the information and instructions that allow the video clip to be played properly.

Within the container is the video, and audio, itself. In the same way that there are different image file formats, such as JPEG, TIFF and BMP, there are different video formats. Each of these can be compressed in different ways. Some are compressed to get a small file size, at the expense of image quality, while others are designed to produce the best image quality possible — although this often creates large files in the process. The codec is the form of compression that has been used for the video, and for the audio.

When you play the video back, the container instructs the software, or hardware, how to play the video, audio and even subtitles that are contained within it. Thankfully, most computer media players can now play almost any video file, but on the internet things

work differently. Also bear in mind that if you want to create a DVD or Blu-ray, you also need to stick to specific standards for video creation, although much of this can be done after editing your video.

For most purposes you'll want to record as an MP4 file. An MP4 file is actually a container file that contains MPEG-4 Part 10 AVC video. Confusingly, MPEG-4 Part 10 AVC is much more commonly known as H.264. So an MP4 file can have H.264 compression. However, AVCHD files also use video that has H.264 compression.

Some cameras will offer a choice of different file formats, perhaps MP4 or AVCHD, and it may be confusing when it comes to deciding which one to use. When you're starting out, it may help to know that MP4 files are slightly easier to work with, as the AVCHD container uses a folder structure that can seem

Select a colour style in-camera that is low contrast and low saturation to capture as much detail as possible confusing. MP4 files are simpler to use, as they can be opened and played just like a conventional file. They are also much easier to upload to the internet.

Interlaced or progressive?

You'll often see the letters 'i' or 'p' after the video resolution, such as 720p or 1080i, and you might also see it after the frame rate, such as 24p, 30i or 60p. The letters refer to the terms 'interlaced' or 'progressive'.

Progressive footage means that the video is played back line by line, so lines 1, 2, 3, 4 and so on will be played back consecutively. Once the last line has been played, it returns to the first line and the process starts again.

Interlaced footage plays alternate lines from the video (for example, 1, 3, 5, 7) and once it has played the last line, it will return and play the remaining ones (2, 4, 6, 8 and so on).

A lot of the debate over progressive or interlaced stems back to the original technology and techniques used for broadcast. Nowadays, with some consumer cameras capable of recording at 60p, and sensor readout speeds getting faster and faster, the case for shooting interlaced footage is becoming less relevant. We would recommend shooting progressive footage, but try both on different types of subjects and see which one you prefer.

Colour

Although there are some cameras that now shoot a raw video format, for the most part you'll be working with compressed footage. To get the most out of editing this footage it's important to make sure that it's as 'flat' as possible. This means preserving as much detail in the highlights and shadows as you can, which in turn means shooting the footage with the lowest contrast colour setting available and with colours that aren't overly saturated. Look for a colour setting in-camera that is specifically for video, or for a Faithful, Natural, Neutral or a flat (low contrast and saturation) setting. Even in these settings, it can be worth reducing the saturation and contrast further, and then editing the colour in post-production.





Amateur Filmmaker of the Year competition

Your chance to enter the UK's newest competition for budding amateur filmmakers

TO COINCIDE with the launch of The Video Mode website, we're pleased to announce our new Amateur Filmmaker of the Year (AFOY) competition. AFOY challenges you to get creative with your filmmaking, and gives you the opportunity to win some fantastic prizes worth £10,000 in total.

The competition is split into three rounds, each with its unique theme: Nature, Time and Love. To enter, submit a video no more than five minutes in length, of HD quality. You can shoot on any camera you'd like, and the content and editing are up to your imagination – so long as it fits

the round's particular theme.

Visit www.thevideomode.com to view the top videos, as well as the scores and a leaderboard for the overall competition. The winner will be the person with most points after three rounds, who will win the overall prize as well as title of Amateur Filmmaker of the Year.

Round One: Nature

In this round we ask you to film nature from a new perspective.

Look at the world around you – from urban foxes at twilight, to a spectacular sunrise – from a new angle and get creative with unique viewpoints. To see examples, go to www.thevideomode.com/examples.

Rounds and dates

Below is a list of the competition rounds, their themes and the dates you need to know. To view the results, visit www.thevideomode.com. When planning your entry, take into consideration the criteria of fulfilling the brief, creativity and technical excellence on which you'll be judged.

Theme	Opens	Closes	
Round One: Nature	1 Aug	30 Sep	
Round Two: Time	1 Oct	31 Dec	
Round Three: Love	1 Jan	28 Feb	

The overall winner will be announced in April 2016

Prizes

Enter to win your share of prizes worth over £10 000! Here's what you could receive:

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THIS tutorial session is essential for amateurs who would like to learn the basics of filmmaking with a DSLR or compact system camera, and will cover everything you need to know to get more out of that red record button.

Expert videographer Simeon Quarrie will provide you with the technical and practical skills needed to start shooting high-quality video, including:

- Setting up your camera for optimum results
- Essential shooting skills
- The importance of high-quality audio

Lunch will be provided and, as an added bonus, you'll have the chance to get hands on with the latest Canon equipment.

PLUS 10 lucky attendees could also win an exclusive practical

afternoon session, to put their new-found skills into practice.

To secure your place on this not-to-be-missed learning opportunity, please email afoyevent@timeinc.com with the subject line, 'Canon Video Event'. Also include your full name, address and contact number, and if you'd like to be considered for a place in the afternoon hands-on session.

Your expert guide



Simeon Quarrie is known for his creativity and storytelling in both video and photography.

His work has seen him travel across the world for clients who seek his unique approach. With his passion for both wedding photography and cinematography, Simeon has successfully worked across a range of genres. He is a prolific educator with infectious enthusiasm and his work features on top industry blogs.

Places are on a first come, first served basis and are limited to 90 people

How to expose fo

Exposing for video is very similar to exposing for still images. However, there are key rules you need to know

IF YOU know how to expose a still photograph, then you know how to expose video. There is one important rule, the 180° shutter rule (see right), but the basics of aperture, shutter and sensitivity remain the same.

Depending on the camera you're using, you may have the option to shoot a very low compression, or even raw video footage. This will give you much more flexibility when editing the video, and allow you to recover some shadow and possibly highlight detail. Generally, though, you want the footage to look as good straight out of the camera as you can, and this means avoiding blown-out highlight areas.

Sensitivity

Just as with stills photography, the higher the sensitivity, the less light is required to expose the frame. However, due to the shutter speeds that are used for video, the sensitivity will generally be at the lowest possible settings, usually ISO 100, 200 or 400, depending on the camera.

Using a higher sensitivity can also introduce noise. On a still image noise is acceptable to some degree, but the random nature of video noise means that shadow areas are prone to constantly looking fuzzy and may even change 24 times a second, which can be very distracting. Again, it's best to stick to lower sensitivity settings to try to prevent this.

Shutter speed

Stills photographers will know that the shutter speed is used to control how movement is recorded in a scene. So if you're taking a picture of running water, for example, a slower shutter speed will give you blurred or smooth water, whereas a fast shutter speed will 'freeze' the water in place as it falls or flows.

In digital video, however, the shutter works slightly differently. For a start, with stills photography you're relying on a mechanical shutter, but when you're recording video the noise of the shutter would be picked up during video recording. So instead, the shutter opens at the start and then an electronic shutter simulates the function of the mechanical shutter as you film.

When shooting stills, you can shoot at any shutter speed you like, or at least whatever shutter speed is appropriate for the effect you're aiming for and the environment you're working in. You can capture images right up to 1/8,000sec (so long as your camera has that function), right down to long exposures lasting a number of

seconds.
So the critical difference between the two disciplines lies in the fact that for video you're limited

to a single shutter speed while recording – and that shutter speed depends on the frame rate you're shooting at.

Aperture

The aperture setting controls the depth of field, as well as the amount of light coming into the camera through the lens. The restrictions on what shutter speed can be used for video has a big impact on the aperture settings that can be used. In video, a shallow depth of field is often used to isolate the subject. One of the advantages of shooting with a DSLR that has a large sensor is that consumers can reproduce this look - and therefore a video that looks like a Hollywood film. In the past, video cameras with smaller sensors couldn't replicate this shallow depth of field, which is why most amateur videos have front-to-back focus. To give your video a cinematic effect, try using a shallow depth of field and carefully focusing. Don't use it all the time, though, as it may look amateurish.

ND filters

Having to stick with a fixed shutter speed can feel particularly limiting for those of us who are experienced in stills photography. If you're outdoors and shooting at 1/50sec at your lowest ISO and you want to use a wide aperture, you'll often find that your scene is overexposed. The natural tendency for a photographer would be to increase the shutter speed, but because we can't do that on video we have to use ND filters to reduce the amount of light entering through the lens.

When shooting video, ND filters work in exactly the same way as they do for





zebra pattern

to 100%.

rvideo

still images. ND filters come in different strengths and can cut out a number of stops of light starting at 1 stop and going right up to 10 stops. You can also combine filters to block out even more light if, for some reason, 10 stops aren't enough.

However, one ND filter that's become popular over recent years is the variable ND filter, which is a single circular filter that can be adjusted between 2 and 10 stops. The advantage of this is that one filter gives you 8 different stops of range, which also means that it's possible to subtly adjust the exposure while filming. However, not all variable ND filters are born equal, and some are a lot better than others. It is worth getting a good-quality variable ND filter from a reputable manufacturer and supplier, as cheaper versions can cause colour casts or strange light patterns to occur.

If this is an aspect of videography you would particularly like to control, some professional video cameras – like the Canon Cinema EOS models – have an ND filter built in so that a range of stops can be dialled in without having to attach a filter to the front.

Zebra patterning

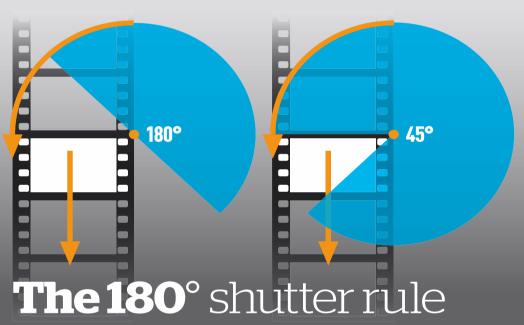
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However, to make sure there is enough detail for editing, and that no area is white, even if seen riety of different screens,

video is zebra patterning. The moving black & white striped pattern can be seen in areas of the image that are blown out. Usually the zebra pattern can be set to a specific value. If you only want to see areas that are completely white, with no detail, then set the

on a variety of different screens, it may be worth setting the zebra lower, to, say, 95%. This will then warn you of any area that is over 95% in brightness. The zebra pattering and histogram should be your guides when it comes to setting exposure.



THE 180° shutter rule relates to the fact that film cameras use rotary shutters, and by changing the angle of the rotary shutter you can change the duration of the exposure (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotary_disc_shutter for details).

For a natural-looking motion, the shutter speed should be twice the length of the shooting rate. So at 24fps or 25fps, the shutter should be set to around 1/50sec. If you're shooting at 30fps, then the shutter speed can be set to 1/60sec. If the shutter speed that is exactly double isn't available, then choose one that is closest. For example, if shooting at 60fps, the shutter speed can be set to 1/125 sec.

If you shoot slower than the 180° shutter rule, then the footage will

suffer from motion blur, which can look odd and cause a loss in detail. Conversely, shooting at a faster shutter speed (and therefore a smaller shutter angle) can create a stuttering type of motion, and make natural human movements look slightly robotic.

Over the years filmmakers have put both these effects to good use – for example, a 45° shutter was used for some scenes in the TV series *Band of Brothers* and the film *Saving Private Ryan*. This would have meant shooting at a shutter speed of 1/198sec, or 1/200sec on a digital camera, and was used to create a very tense, uneasy feel reminiscent of the slightly staccato look of old cine films. Sticking to the 180° shutter rule will give you the most natural movement.



Want to shoot better Video?

Well now you can! The Video Mode is a brand new website from Amateur Photographer that will teach you everything you need to know, from capturing those special holiday memories to filming the next blockbuster.



THE VIDEO MODE Canon

The Video Mode features tuition videos and technique articles from expert filmmakers designed to help you capture professional quality movies.

Photogra

Sound

recording

Great picture quality is only half the story when making videos, as the sound is just as important. Here's our guide to the basics of

audio recording for videographers

BUILT-IN microphones fitted to DSLRs and compact system cameras are fine for short personal clips of your holidays or the kids playing in the garden – subjects where the camera operator is also likely to be the narrator – but for anything more professional, the quality is woefully inadequate. Good sound quality is just as important as good picture quality. You can disguise less than perfect pictures with great sound, but great images will be ruined by poor audio.

For anyone looking to take video seriously, the first investment, after the camera itself, should be a microphone, and if you're buying a camera with video in mind you should make sure it has an input to accept a mic. Over the next few pages we look at the factors to consider when recording audio on your camera, and the options available to help you get the best results. Our assumption is that you'll want to record a human voice in your videos, but even if you only wish to record, say, birdsong, the same principles

still apply.

Hotshoe mic

A mic can often be attached to your camera's hotshoe. Although this is convenient, it may not always be the best place to put it.

Mic input

Unless you're using a separate digital audio recorder, you'll need a camera with a mic input to achieve good-quality audio with your video.

5D

Mark III

Headphone output

Canon

It's important to be able to monitor the quality of the sound you're recording, so a headphone port is a desirable feature.



MMLTO

Built-in mic

A built-in mic is a poor choice for recording sound. For a start, it's very small – so small that you may not even have noticed where it is (look for a cluster of tiny holes on the front of the body). It's omnidirectional, so it picks up sound from all around. While it may not be powerful enough to clearly pick out the voice of a subject speaking a few metres away, it's sensitive enough to amplify the sounds in its immediate vicinity, including your breathing and even the guiet whirring of the lens's AF motor. It's vulnerable to wind noise, too, which records as a loud roar and drowns out any speech.

These shortcomings can all be cured by using a suitable external microphone. But which type should you choose? There are so many, each of which has its place, depending on your needs. Let's take a closer look at the options.

Directional hotshoe mic

Many camera brands and independent companies make a simple cardioid microphone that fits into your camera's hotshoe, plugs into the mic input and records the sound coming from in front of it. You can buy these for less than £100, and they offer stronger sound and less distracting background, handling and wind noise (when used with a suitable windshield). However, they still have drawbacks. For the best audio quality, the mic should be as close as possible to the sound source, not on the camera. If your subject is over two metres away, the quality will suffer. To see how much difference a hotshoe-mounted mic can make, see our video at www. thevideomode.com/tuition/the-basics-ofrecording-audio-for-video-323.

The shotgun mic

The shotgun mic can also be mounted on your hotshoe, using a suitable shockWhat **we use**

Although we use a variety of cameras (mostly Canon DSLRs or the Panasonic Lumix DMC-GH3), our audio recording kit is fairly consistent. We use:

A Sennheiser EW 100-ENG G3 (around **£720)** Probably 90% of our videos are shot using this wireless lapel mic, attached to the presenter. We have two sets, one using XLR connections for our audio recorder, and the other fitted with 3.5mm mini-jacks so it can go directly into the camera. A Sennheiser MKE 600 shotgun mic (around £260)

For those occasions where a lapel mic isn't suitable, we use this excellent shotgun mic, both on and off the camera, depending on the situation. **Rycote accessories** To combat wind noise, our mics are fitted with Rycote windshield accessories, including the Softie Windshield Kit for our shotgun mic. We also use Rycote's shock mounts, whether handholding or hotshoe-mounting the mic.

A Tascam DR-40 This particular digital audio recorder can accept both XLR or 3.5mm mini-jacks, making it a versatile recorder whichever mic we're using.

For tutorial videos showing how to film better videos on your DSLR, see our website at www.thevideomode.com

THE **VIDEO MODE**

directional - you could say it's the telephoto lens of microphones, in that it picks up from a very narrow angle in front and has a longer range than a basic hotshoe mic. Even so, shotgun mics are most frequently used off the camera, suspended from a boom above the subject, or pointing up from below, out of camera shot. You've probably seen them in behind-the-scenes shots of movie and TV sets. Shotgun mics are usually more expensive than basic on-camera hotshoe mics, but they have the benefit of being more versatile.

digital recorder that accepts different types of mini-jacks

Below: The Sennheiser MKE 600 Shotgun mic (£260) works well for occasions when lapel mics aren't suitable

Above: The Tascam Dr-4 (£160) is a versatile portable

microphone that attaches to the clothing, just below the neck, of the person speaking. Its short range means it picks up crystal-clear sound from the person it's attached to, while ignoring more distant sounds. These mics are available in both omnidirectional and directional types, and both wired or wireless varieties. Although you can pick up a wired lav mic for under £50, your shooting distance is limited by the length of the cable (on average, about 6m) since the other end of the mic cable plugs directly into the camera. (There is a workaround for this, however, which we'll come to shortly.) With a wireless lav mic you can shoot from further away and the subject has complete freedom of movement. The downside of lav mics is that they're visible in your video, and the wireless varieties can be very expensive for the amateur filmmaker.

Using a separate audio recorder

So far, all the solutions presented assume that you're still recording your sound in-camera, but this doesn't have to be the case. In fact, there are many reasons not to. The most obvious is that you may not even have an external mic input to plug a microphone into. Even if you do, the main problem then becomes how you control and monitor the sound. Few cameras currently have manual audio-level adjustment, and if they don't, it means they'll use auto gain compensation to automatically

adjust the record level (like auto exposure, but for sound). This means that if the ambient noise level in your environment suddenly drops (for example, if someone stops speaking or music stops playing) the camera,



The lavalier mic

The lav mic,

or lapel mic.

Microphone types

Omnidirectional

Lavalier mics (also know as a lav, lapel or clip mic) use this 360° polar pattern and can easily be placed on a presenter or interviewee. You can hear someone standing next to the speaker, as well as noise from the side, behind and below.

Cardioid

A cardioid microphone has the most sensitivity at the front and is least sensitive at the back. Cardioid microphones have more of a 300° polar pattern, which is useful for capturing audio from the front and sides of the microphone.

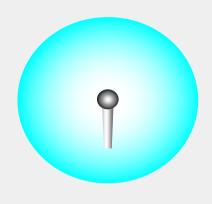


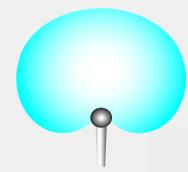
Supercardioid

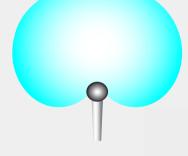
These offer a narrower pick-up than cardioids and a greater rejection of ambient sound. They also have some pick-up directly at the rear, making it useful for interviews, as it saves time turning the microphone around every time a question is asked.

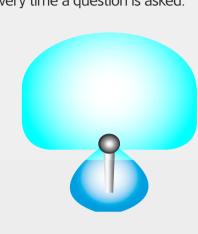
Lobar

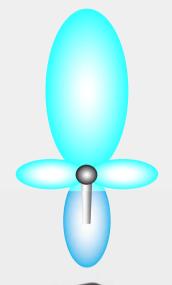
Found in shotgun mics, the polar pattern has the highest possible directivity, so you can focus in on a specific area, as well as getting some pick-up from behind.













Microphone coverage area

The Azden SMX-10 suddenly unable to hear anything, starts **Directional Stereo** to panic and cranks up the record level, Microphone (£100) makes use of a 'lobar' polar pattern



Can't afford an audio recorder?

You can buy a reasonable digital audio recorder for under £100, and an excellent one for not a lot more, but if you're on a tight budget you could also consider the audio recorder you already own – your smartphone. All iPhones and most other devices have a built-in audio recorder that is superior to the one in the camera, and like digital audio recorders they have the benefit of being able to be positioned close to the subject. Use one on a table in front of your speaker, or even slipped discreetly into the shirt pocket (the mic is generally at the bottom of the phone so it will need to be upside down) or plug in a compatible mic (look for one with a TRRS jack). An inexpensive lav mic clipped to the speaker's lapel and plugged into a iPhone in their back pocket will produce much clearer recording than the camera will.

In addition to the built-in audiorecording apps that come with your phone, there are dozens of others, like Griffin's iTalk, with more functionality.

The downside of audio recorders

Using an audio recorder obviously adds a little more hassle to your shoots. It's another thing to think about, something else to go wrong and something else to have to buy, but then 'best' and 'easiest' rarely coincide in life. The biggest hassle, though, is the fact that you'll have to synchronise the sound you have recorded separately with the picture you have recorded in your camera later.

Thankfully, this is pretty easy. By making a couple of loud claps with your hands (a free alternative to using a clapperboard), you can line up the peaks in the visual waveform that this creates with the same peaks on the audio that is recorded automatically by your camera. Once synchronised, you can then remove the in-camera audio track. It takes just a couple of minutes.

delivering a sudden whoosh of background hiss. Then, when the sound starts again, the level drops suddenly and obviously. It sounds pretty amateurish. If your camera does have the means to set a record level, with a meter to provide a visual representation of the audio being recorded, you should use it, setting the peaks of your sound to hit the -12dB level to avoid distortion. Even then, there's no substitute for actually hearing the audio that you're recording so you should ideally be monitoring it through headphones. If your camera has a headphone output, make sure you use it.

So let's say that your camera does have manual audio-level control and headphone monitoring – you're good to go, right? Well, yes and no. An audio recorder will still deliver much better sound because it uses better quality, more powerful pre-amplifiers, and less compression. It's a device purpose-built for the job. By not being attached to the camera, it also enables you to get your wired microphone much closer to the sound source (the holy grail for

good-quality audio). It's no longer an issue that your

6m wired lav mic won't stretch to the camera, for example. The audio recorder can be hidden near the subject, just out of camera shot.



21 top tips for shooting video

There's a lot to learn, but our round up of the best advice will help you shoot successful videos

Before you even step out of the door, you should have your camera set up. When you are out filming, the last thing you want is to be searching through the menu trying to find something or having to change a setting. Spending some time learning how your camera works, and how to get the best footage from it, will ensure that you come home with the quality footage you are after.

Power and space
Recording video will eat through
your batteries, so make sure you are
carrying at least one spare. It is worth
testing your camera before you leave
so you know how long you can record
before the battery dies. Also, turn your
camera off when it isn't in use —
recording and keeping the screen

powered will cause the battery to drain. Switch the camera off completely if you aren't recording to help preserve the battery life.

Similarly, high-definition video can take up a lot of storage space. The latest 4K video footage requires fast cards, so look for those with a UHS-III (U3) rating, which should be capable of capturing this footage. For standard 1080p footage, UHS-I (UI)cards will suffice. Always take a back-up card with you as you may end up shooting more than you thought. Some cameras give an indication of how many minutes of video can be captured with the remaining space on the card.

Shoot what you enjoy A lot of photographers have the desire to shoot video, but simply don't know what to shoot. They think that everything must be a fictional narrative story, but in truth videography can be whatever interests you, and an obvious place to start is with whatever you take photographs of. If you like wildlife photography, try shooting a wildlife video. If you like travel photography, make a short video of the places you are travelling to. Remember that what enthuses you is bound to interest other people, so don't be scared - just go out and shoot what you are familiar with.

Tell a story

Before you even start a project, think about the story that you want to tell. A good story should have a very clear beginning, middle and end. Make sure you know the story you want to tell and think about the shots you will need to illustrate this.

Your story could be a 'day in the life' tale of a person or an animal. Think





about how the day starts and ends. Alternatively, it could be a story of how a bird feeds its young. What is the start, middle and end to this story, and what shots would you take?

Make a shot list Once you have your story, think about all the shots you'll need to tell it. Consider the main scenes and, if possible, add some of the close-ups and B-roll (see tip 7) that you will need. Having a list may seem old-fashioned,

but it ensures that absolutely nothing you need is missed.

Establish the scene

Establishing shots form the footage that tell the viewer key information about the scene and location. They help to establish where the action is taking place. For a wildlife film this could be some wideangle footage of a field as the sun comes up. After this establishing shot, the viewer then knows where any

following footage has taken place and what time of day it is.

Shoot whatever interests you - if

you like wildlife

a wildlife video

photography, make

Take plenty of B-roll In film terms, B-roll is the extra footage that helps to add detail and character to a film. For example, if you are filming the groom writing his speech before a wedding, film an establishing shot of the groom in a room, get some closer footage over the groom's shoulder of him writing away and then try getting some B-roll footage that you can cut in. This could be a close-up shot of the pen on the paper, the groom's eyes as they scan what he has written or some scrunched-up rolls of paper where he has discarded previous attempts. All this footage adds character

and detail that makes it more

shot of the groom writing

his speech.

interesting than just a close-up

the obvious

Don't just shoot

Just as with stills photography, think about how you can use angles creatively to make your footage more interesting. While it is fine to take establishing shots from eye-level, try to get additional footage from higher or lower. You may not end up using all this footage, but if you don't shoot it, the moment may be gone and you may not get another chance. Look for alternative angles and options, particularly for your B-roll, so you have you plenty of options to make the edit more interesting.

Keep it to 10 seconds

This isn't a hard-and-fast rule, but try not to have any single clip last longer than 10 seconds. Of course, you can do this when editing, but try to think about how you can shoot plenty of interesting clips that are all shorter than 10 seconds and assemble them together. You may only use a couple of seconds out of the 10, but chances are there will be few times you will want your clip longer than 10 seconds.

Don't just hit record and film away. Shoot a 10-second wideangle establishing shot, a 10-second standard-length shot and numerous 10-second close-ups as your B-roll. You will then have a far more interesting 30 seconds than if you had been continuously recording and zooming in.

Less is more Just because you can do something, it doesn't mean that you should. It is easy to get carried away with lots of panning shots, or zooming all the time, but this can make your footage look amateurish. Keep your use of these effects to a minimum.





then it may be worth making a mark on the tripod head to note where the pan should start and stop. A chinagraph, chalk pencil or some stickers can often be useful for this.

Think about light
Just as you would with still
images, think about how your scene is
lit. Use a fill-in light where you need to
and avoid shooting your subject with
their back to the sun.

No one wants to look at shaky footage, so make sure you have some kind of image stabilisation switched on in-camera or on the lens. Ideally, you should be using a tripod or other support. See pages 20–21 for various devices currently available.

Manually focus As intelligent as camera autofocus systems are, using them for video will generally lead to the camera hunting back and forth during filming. Switch your camera to manual focus and, as a rule, lock the focus at the beginning of the recording. Moving the focus during recording is known as focus pulling and is a real skill. There are devices called focus pullers that make it far easier, as they allow you to mark two points of focus on a lens and then shift between them. So if you want to switch between one subject talking to another halfway through recording, make sure you know the exact two points of focus so you can move between them before you start recording. It can be very difficult to make these switches of focus smooth, which is why a focus puller is used, and why professional video lenses have very large focus rings.

13 Check your focus
Always double-check focus. It is
the most common mistake to make
when you are starting out, and nothing
can correct it once it has been shot.

One of the most useful things that can help your panning shots is a simple elastic band. If you have a panning head that doesn't pan particularly smoothly, tie an elastic band to the panning handle and pull on it. The band should create a nice even tension that will make the movement very smooth, even on an inexpensive head that doesn't offer variable resistance.

focusing

Compose video as you would a still image

Although you are dealing with moving footage, the principles of composition are the same for both stills and video. Remember the rule of thirds and make sure key elements are on the third intersections. Also look for leading lines to help balance images and lead the eye across the frame to the principal subject.

If the subject of your images is moving across the frame, think about where they are starting and also where they will finish. If possible, make a mark on the floor or note a point in the landscape that will help them know where to stop, or help you to decide where to stop filming or panning. Again, if you have the chance to practice this,



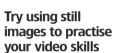
17 Practise with still images

If you haven't got much in the way of video footage, then a good place to start learning the skills you need when structuring a story and editing your work is by using still images.

Think about how you want your story to start and how you want it to end. What details do you want to show? Think about how to show your images in an order to make the story interesting. Most editing software will allow images to pan across, so you can see how these visual effects will work. You can also practise the timing of cuts to music or audio, and how to place transitions. Travel images are often a good option to practise with, as you will naturally have a narrative of the trip and hopefully plenty of variety.

If you don't enjoy editing your video this will show in the editing process. So if you are feeling tired of editing or are having a bad day, get away from the computer and give yourself a break. Being stuck in front

Edit your video on a separate hard disk drive, such as this G-Drive









of a computer screen for hours at a time isn't much fun and can make you a little blind to what you have already done. Take a break and revisit your work later. Looking at an edit with a fresh pair of eyes can help you when you refine and tweak it.

19 Edit a rough version quickly

Once you have all your footage, don't start the full editing process straight away. Get the essential video clips on the timeline and edit them together. Make a very rough cut of the essentials, and when you have that in place start to fine-tune by adding more B-roll footage, refining the cuts and adding transitions.

20 Keep your video on a separate hard disk

It is best to edit your video on an external hard disk drive, connected via a fast USB 3.0 or Thunderbolt connection. As the computer's internal disk is also used to run the software and operating system, having it spin back and forth looking for video footage will slow things down. So long as you are using a fast external hard disk and connection, an editing video stored on an external disk will be far quicker.

Just as with still photos, if your hard disk dies you could lose everything so make sure that your videos are saved to at least two places.

'If you haven't got much in the way of video footage, then a good place to start learning the skills you need is by using still images'



Supporting

vour camera

Just as with stills photography, for high-quality images you need to keep your camera as stable as possible. There are many ways to do this, depending on what you're shooting. We look at some here

WHEN filming on a DSLR, one of the most important skills you have to learn is how to keep your camera steady. With stills images a tripod or monopod is the obvious choice, and these supports also work with video cameras, but what do you do if you want moving footage? How do you keep your camera tracking or panning while ensuring the footage looks smooth? There are many tips, tricks and techniques for this and, in fact, there's a whole industry based around supporting your camera.

Tripods

If you're just starting out, try using a standard camera tripod. Remember that when you're shooting video, you should apply the same principles as you would if you were shooting a long-exposure image. To keep the footage completely steady and free from any shake, you need a sturdy tripod that has good locks. It also needs to be placed on solid ground and it's important not to walk around the tripod, as it may cause it to move slightly.

After a while you may find that you want more support than a standard photographic tripod can offer. Tripods designed for video usually have far wider legs that are less prone to wobble and won't rock in the wind. They're also generally larger, with bigger heads and no centre column. These features help to keep the camera as steady as possible and reduce vibrations when recording.

Monopods

Monopods are lightweight and easy to use, and are just as popular for videographers as they are photographers, particularly when combined with in-camera image stabilisation. Monopods can be used in the same way as they would for still images, and provide a single leg that can be useful when shooting subjects like wildlife, where you may have to quickly reposition your camera.

However, the humble monopod has a second use, which is to act as a stabilisation device when moving with the camera. Attaching a monopod to a camera, and keeping it collapsed, adds extra weight to your DSLR, which can help keep movement smooth. Securing the monopod against your waist or into your belt can also help keep moving footage smooth, as it provides another anchor point.

Stabilising devices, rigs and cages

There are a huge number of devices that are designed to stabilise a camera when vou're shooting moving video. The most basic of these is a simple shoulder support, or shoulder rig, which uses the natural weight support of the shoulder to help prevent shake and provide more fluid movement.

Counterweighted stabilisation devices are another alternative, and these include Steadicam products. These screw into the tripod socket on the bottom of the camera, and use a weight to provide ballast that counteracts and softens any movement. When used by a skilled operator, footage shot using a Steadicam can look as though it was shot on a camera on a dolly (a type of support on wheels), but the advantage of a Steadicam, or a counterweighted support, is that it can go where a dolly

For the average enthusiast, a counterweighted support will help steady the footage and create movement that floats as opposed to shaking or juddering. More expensive devices include motorised gyroscopes that can counteract almost any movement and provide shake-free footage.

A rig may also contain a quick-release plate, and some rails on which other accessories such as focus pullers, clamps, lights, microphones, audio recorders, hard disk recorders and numerous other devices can be mounted. A cage may also be included, which is a frame that surrounds the camera on which various accessories

can't, such as up and down stairs.





MASTER CAMERA SUPPORT

21

can be mounted. Cages often have a handle above the camera that allows it to be held steadily for low-angle handheld shots.

Cheap or expensive?

Monopods can be used in a variety of situations and act as a stabilisation device when moving with the camera

www.thevideomode.com | Master video with your DSLR

As with standard camera supports, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of different stabilisation and supporting options for shooting video and they come in a broad range of prices. Some can be fairly inexpensive, and do an excellent job, but there are other items,

such as a good fluid pan-and-tilt head, Invest in a where it's better to buy the best you good-quality pan-and-tilt head can afford. A good head should last a from the beginning lifetime, while an inexpensive one may quickly frustrate you and may prove limiting as you become more experienced. We advise investing in a good-quality head upfront, as you'll almost inevitably end up doing away with the less expensive head anyway. Check www.thevideomode.com to see our latest reviews of video supports. **Video heads** At their core, video heads are much the same as standard photographic tripod heads. However, there are a few key refinements that help make it easier for videographers. The most important of these are smooth, fluid heads. The construction of such heads means that when panning horizontally or vertically (known as tilting), the pan has a smooth, even resistance. This enables the videographer to pan or tilt at a constant speed. Panning is controlled via an arm, and more expensive heads will provide a friction control that can change the level of resistance for when slower or faster pans are required. Some heads also offer the ability to lock the head so that it only moves across a particular axis, allowing the camera to be only panned or tilted.

Editing and exporting

The editing process is when your video really starts to take shape. We explain how to edit, export and share your video with the world

EVEN if you have been working on a short project that is just a few minutes long, you will probably have far more video than you actually need. The skill now is to make all the footage into a finished video.

Software

There are many different video-editing packages, and chances are you may already have one on your computer without even realising it. Windows may have Windows Movie Maker installed, but if it's not you can download it as part of the Windows Essentials package at http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-live/download-windows-essentials#wetabs=we2012. Those using a Mac may have Apple iMovie installed, but if not it is a reasonable £10.99 from the Apple App store.

Most software will operate in much the same way, allowing you to put the clips in sequential order, which is usually displayed as a timeline. You will also be able to edit the clips individually, choosing to trim or split them as appropriate. Trimming is the process of changing the start and/or end point of a clip, in effect shortening it to cut out anything that isn't relevant. Splitting is the process of splitting a clip in two, often so that another clip can be slotted in where the clip is split.

The most popular software for editing is probably Adobe Premiere, which can be used on both Macs and PCs, and Apple Final Cut Pro X, which can only be used on Macs. Adobe Premiere is also available as Premiere Express in the form of a cut-down version of the software, although it should have everything you need when starting out without some of the more complex features of the full version.

Transitions

A transition is a device that is used to move from one clip to another. These can vary enormously, and most should be avoided or, at the very least, used in moderation. A simple cut from one piece of footage to another is usually enough, although transitions can be used to signify a change of scene, or a change of time and place. For example, a fade to

white can often be used before cutting to a dream sequence, while a fade to black may be used to signify the end of a day or the end of a particular sequence of footage. A cross-dissolve transition fades one scene out as another scene fades in, and when shooting the same subject it can be used as a smooth way to cut the footage without using a jump cut.

Have a play around with the transitions offered by your editing software. How you insert a transition will vary, but in general they are simply dragged and dropped into position between two clips on your editing timeline. The best advice when choosing transitions is to stick to the simple fades already discussed. Generally, most other transitions are very jarring and look unnatural. Watch films, documentaries and music videos to see how the filmmakers have cut between footage and used transitions. You will very quickly get a feel for the different circumstances in which each type is used.

Uploading to YouTube



YOUTUBE advises that video be uploaded in an MP4 container using the H.264 codec, with the same frame rate that was used for recording. Although

other frame rates can be used, 24, 25, 30, 48, 50 and 60fps are all acceptable. Interlaced footage should also be de-interlaced and saved as progressive, although, as we recommend on page 7, it's better to use progressive footage in the first place to save this extra rendering process.

YouTube also offers the following guidance on bit rates:

Туре	Video bit rate, standard frame rate (24, 25, 30)	Video bit rate, high frame rate (48, 50, 60)
2160 p (4k)	35-45 Mbps	53-68 Mbps
1440 p (2k)	16 Mbps	24 Mbps
1080 p	8 Mbps	12 Mbps
720 p	5 Mbps	7.5 Mbps
480 p	2.5 Mbps	4 Mbps
360 p	1 Mbps	1.5 Mbps



MASTER EDITING AND EXPORTING

Exporting

Once your footage has been edited, you need to save it all together in a format that you can use to play it. This is known as rendering or exporting, and how you render your video will depend on how you wish it to be used.

If you are rendering the video so it can be saved and played on a DVD, you will need a different set of export settings to those required if you plan to show it directly to a television. Similarly, exporting for the internet brings with it another few considerations.

Generally, the main considerations are the resolution, the type of compression and the bit rate. Each of these will have an impact on the size and quality of your video. It may sound very confusing and seem like a lot to consider, but once again, most software packages will have a complete set of presets designed to make it simple to export your video depending on your needs.

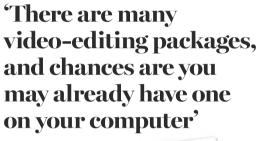


The bit rate is the amount of data that the video uses in one second. The higher the bit rate, the better quality the video, but the larger the file size and the more bandwidth and processing power will be needed to view it properly. Also, a higher bit rate will need a faster internet connection to view it in real time without buffering.

Using a codec that heavily compresses a video can reduce the bit rate, allowing it to load faster and play without interruption or dropped frames. However, as the codec does this by reducing the quality of the video footage, a compromise has to be made between size and quality.

Videos with variable bit rates are encoded so the scenes that require more detail have a higher bit rate than scenes that don't. See the *Uploading to YouTube* box (left) for more details on the specific bit rate required for YouTube, which should also be applicable for most online video sites.







Jump **cuts**

ONE THING to avoid is a jump cut. A jump cut is when two pieces of footage that have the same composition jump in time. Imagine having a 10-second video clip, but cutting 4 seconds out of the middle. Where the third second cuts to the eighth second, a jump cut is created. The effect can be very jarring and looks very odd.

However, filmmakers have also used jump cuts creatively, using maybe three or more jump cuts a few seconds after each other to show a quick passage of time or to create a very tense, uneasy feeling.

So, unless you have a deliberate purpose for using a jump cut, avoid it, but be on the look-out for films and television programmes that use them creatively and think of ways that they could be used to help the narrative of your videos.





Creative and versatile the XC10 captures stunning 4K/Full HD 4:2:2 video and high quality stills in one compact, lightweight and easy to use camera with 10x zoom lens, optical image stabilisation and Wi Fi remote control.



